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Page 17



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Page 24

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Saturday, June 21, 2014



John Koskinen, commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, during his testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, June 20, 2014. Koskinen explained on Friday how thousands of IRS emails disappeared, and why that disclosure came more than a year after the start of investigations by the agency into suspected mistreatment of conservative political groups.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

IRS Leader and Lawmakers Clash on Missing Emails

DAVID S. JOACHIM
© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - A congressional hearing examining how the IRS lost thousands of emails sought by investigators turned into a shouting match Friday, with Re-

publicans on the panel accusing the IRS commissioner of lying.

"Sitting here listening to this testimony, I don't believe it," Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., told the commissioner, John Koskinen, at a hear-

ing of the Ways and Means Committee.

"That's your problem. No one believes you."

"You ask taxpayers to hang on to seven years of their personal tax information in case they're ever audited,

and you can't keep six months' worth of employee emails?" Ryan added, referring to the agency's practice of overwriting backup tapes.

Democrats on the committee repeatedly objected to

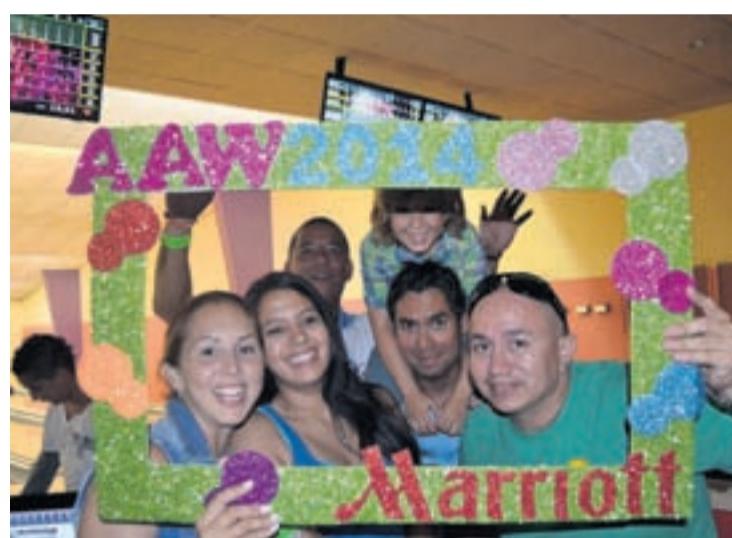
Republicans who interrupted Koskinen before he had the chance to answer or used their time to confront Koskinen without asking a question.

Continued on Page 5

Aruba Marriott Celebrates Associate Appreciation Week

PALM BEACH – Recently the Aruba Marriott celebrated Associate Appreciation Week with a week filled with fun activities to thank the associates for their hard work and dedication. The special week was initiated Friday afternoon with an outdoor BBQ for the staff. On Monday the associates enjoyed a nice beach walk followed by a game of domino at the Stellaris Casino. In the evening the staff had a blast during the scavenger hunt in Oranjestad looking for specific items together with their teams. On Tuesday several lucky associates won cash prizes during the jam-packed bingo at the Stellaris Casino and afterwards enjoyed a game of fun brain gymnastics with their teams. On Wednesday morning the staff geared up for a hike in Arikok National Park to explore and learn about Aruba's nature and fauna. In the afternoon, the associates put on their helmets and coveralls for a competitive game of paintball, where even the Executive Committee Members joined the fun. On Thursday morning the associates participated with different amusing games during 'Spel Zonder Grenzen', followed by dance classes in the afternoon, where the associates got the chance to learn new dance moves. For a special treat, the associates also enjoyed the new release of "How to train a dragon" and "Jump Street 22" at Paseo Herencia with their families. To end the Associate Appreciation Week, the associates joined the mountain bike ride tour on Friday morning and had nice time mingling together at the bowling event at Eagle Bowling in the evening.

Associate Appreciation Week 2014 was another great celebration, where the Aruba Marriott's staff had a memorable week and enjoyed a fun time together. For more photos of the Associate Appreciation Week, visit the official Facebook fan page www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott. □



At Sorobon, Bonaire; Two World Championship Events in a Week of Sports Entertainment!

SOROBON, BONAIRE - Following months of preparation we are finally a couple of weeks ahead of the biggest sports world champion event in Bonaire. This year Bonaire will host not one but two World Championship in just one week. PWA Bonaire World Cup 2014 and the 10th Prokids IFCA Championship 2014, which started June 20th and runs until June 29th, 2014. Both events are coordinated by General Coordinator, Mr. Gerald Victoria and his Bonaire Committee Team and the Aquaspeed Windsurfers Bonaire Association. PWA Bonaire World Cup 2014 began June 20th, 2014 with registration and the official opening ceremony held with a defile, where all the participants



Bonaire World Cup and the 10th Prokids Bonaire IFCA Championship events. You will be able to see the best of the best in the windsurfing sports competing for 1st place in the category Freestyle and Slalom. We will also have the Stand up Paddle Board competition and on Saturday June 28th we will have a special Night event. We thank all our sponsors for their support: MCB Bonaire NV, Tourism Corporation Bonaire, Government, Budget Car Rental, Sorobon Beach Resort, Fundashon Wega di Number, TELBO, ENNIA, Krioyo Paint, Obersi Group, Budget Marine, Plaza Resort, Hitess Bonaire, Don Andres, Akkermans Auto Supplies, Bistro de Paris, STINAPA, Jibe City, Indebon, Gio's Gelateria & Cafe, Cactus Accounting, Flamingo TV, Bonaire Windsurf Place, ClickPrint Aruba, Caterpillar, Selibon, Indebon, Kite City and Starboard. For more information in regards to the PWA event visit www.pwaworldtour.com, where they will also have live streaming of the events from June 20th till 24th. For more information in regards to the Prokids event, visit www.prokidsfreestyle.com and our Facebook page: Prokids Windsurfing Bonaire. □



June 29th at the event site in Sorobon-Lac Bay, Bonaire.

From June 25th into the entire weekend till June 29th other beach sports such as Beach Soccer (Football), Beach Bolas Criollas, Beach Domino, Beach Checkers and Beach Aerobics will start with great entertainment during the day and evening. Together the weekend will conclude with the award ceremony during the final closing ceremony on Sunday, June 29th, 2014.

The entire Bonaire Committee would like to invite participants, visitors of our sister islands Aruba and Curacao and also our visitors from abroad together with the Bonaire community to come to the PWA

marched onto the event site with their official flag of the country they represent. The competitions will be held from June 21st and finalizing with the award ceremony on June 24th. During the PWA competition our very own Demenson "Kiri" Thode will be competing to keep his title, World Champion Freestyle. The 10th Prokids Bonaire IFCA Championship 2014 will start on June 25th, 2014 with registration and the of-

ficial 10th consecutive year celebration of the Prokids event. This year the committee chose two youngsters, Jurgen Saragoza and Stephan Gustowski as role models for their dedication and achievements they have shown throughout the years competing in the event of Prokids. The competition will be held from June 25th and finalizing with the award ceremony and closing of the entire week's event on Sunday,



Biden in Central America to discuss migrant crisis



From left, Honduras' State Secretary Jorge Ramon Hernandez, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, El Salvador's President Salvador Sanchez Ceren, Guatemala's President Otto Perez Molina, and Mexico's Interior Ministry Miguel Angel Osorio Chong wave to photographs at the National Palace in Guatemala City, Friday, June 20, 2014. The Obama administration moved Friday to stem a flood of Central American children and families that has overwhelmed the U.S. immigration system, dispatching Biden to the region to warn against the perils of the trip and announcing that it will start to detain families at the border instead of releasing them on their own recognizance.

(AP Photo/Luis Soto)



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SONIA PEREZ

Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) —

The Obama administration moved Friday to stem a flood of Central American children and families that has overwhelmed the U.S. immigration system, sending Vice President Joe Biden to the region to warn against the perils of the trip and announcing it will start to detain families at the border instead of releasing them on their own recognizance. Officials had insisted for weeks that criminal violence was responsible for the surge of Central American children and families rather than the perception that minors and parents with children would be allowed to stay in the U.S.

In a softening of that position, the U.S. government this week began a regional public-relations campaign to fight the widespread belief in Central America that children and families are allowed to stay in the U.S. if they are caught by the Border Patrol.

That belief has been fueled both by migrant smug-

glers seeking more clients and by calls home from children and families who have been released by the thousands in recent years, with notices to appear in immigration court, because there are no facilities to hold them.

The administration said Friday that it was opening detention centers to house families, although it did not provide details.

At the same time, Biden met in Guatemala City with President Otto Perez Molina, who asked the U.S. to start a temporary work program for Guatemalan migrants and grant "temporary protected status" for Guatemalan migrants. Salvadorans and Hondurans who were in the U.S. at the time that status was granted — 2001 for El Salvador and 1999 for Honduras — can apply and receive some protections against deportation.

Homicide, extortion, rape and gang recruitment have risen to epidemic levels in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador in recent years. □

US House backs limits on Obama's authority

DONNA CASSATA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Republican-led House on Friday overwhelmingly approved a \$570 billion defense bill that halts any Guantanamo transfers for a year in the furor over the American-for-Taliban swap and pulls back government spying.

The vote was 340-73 for the legislation that provides money for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, personnel, ships and aircraft. An unusual coalition of libertarian Republicans and liberal Democrats pushed through new limits on National Security Agency surveillance as the year-old revelations of bulk collection of millions of Americans' phone records still roil the debate of secu-

rity vs. privacy.

The White House has objected to the legislation, which must be reconciled with a still-to-be written version from the Democratic-led Senate.

Pushing through the bill over three days, Republicans railed against President Barack Obama's decision last month to swap five Taliban leaders who had been held at Guantanamo for more than a decade for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, a captive for five years in Afghanistan. The Taliban were transferred to Qatar, where they must remain for a year.

Republicans said Obama broke the law, failing to notify Congress within 30 days, and increased the terrorism risk to the United States with the exchange. □



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IRS leader and lawmakers clash on missing emails

Continued from front

"For him to take the oath and then have people suggest to him, 'We don't believe you,'

that is not the way this committee has functioned in the past, and it ought not to be the way we function going forward," said Rep. Richard E. Neal, D-Mass.

Koskinen, in his testimony, pointed to a report by an inspector general of the Treasury Department, the parent agency of the IRS, which concluded that while agency employees had acted improperly, there was no evidence of political motivation or outside influence.

He also said a delay in the disclosure of the lost emails was not indicative of a cover-up.

He submitted as evidence an email exchange from 2011 between the agency's technology staff and Lois Lerner, then an IRS official, in which she sought to have her messages restored.

He said a computer crash and an effort to retrieve the lost messages had occurred before the agency was notified that Congress was receiving complaints

from conservative political groups that they were being unfairly scrutinized.

Several of the Democrats called the panel's inquiry a "witch hunt" meant to create the appearance of a conspiracy during an election year.

Some of them, instead of asking their own questions, gave their time to Koskinen to respond to the Republicans' accusations.

The Democrats also said the committee's inquiry was missing a larger point: that political groups of all kinds were effectively getting subsidies from taxpayers as "social welfare groups,"

even though they actually conducted political activities.

During the past week, the IRS has said thousands of emails of interest to investigators looking into suspected mistreatment of political groups by the agency had been destroyed because of computer crashes affecting seven employees. Those employees included Lerner,

who has been accused of orchestrating a politically motivated effort to hold up applications for tax exemption from Tea Party

groups before the 2012 election.

Republican lawmakers responded to the disclosure

that the disappearance of the emails violated federal record-keeping laws. Several Republicans on the

"Over three years ago, this committee started asking the IRS: Was it targeting conservatives for their be-



Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), center, speaks to John Koskinen, commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, during his testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee in Washington, June 20, 2014. Koskinen explained on Friday how thousands of IRS emails disappeared, and why that disclosure came more than a year after the start of investigations by the agency into suspected mistreatment of conservative political groups.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

with incredulity, questioning whether the emails were truly unrecoverable and accusing the agency of a Nixonian cover-up. They have also suggested

Ways and Means Committee said that the IRS had lost credibility because of repeated denials that they claimed turned out to be wrong.

lies, was it asking groups inappropriate questions, was it harassing conservative donors," said Rep. Dave Camp, the committee's chairman. □

NY reaches settlement in Central Park jogger case

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City said Friday it has reached a settlement with five men who were falsely convicted in the vicious 1989 rape and beating of a Central Park jogger, one of the most lurid crime cases in the city's history.

The announcement was made by Comptroller Scott Stringer. A city official,

speaking on condition of anonymity, put the amount at \$40 million. Stringer says that's "in the ballpark" but wouldn't give specifics.

The deal needs approval from the comptroller and a federal judge.

Five black and Hispanic defendants were convicted in the attack on a white woman who had gone for a run in the park. □

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Probes at home trip up potential 2016 candidates

THOMAS BEAUMONT

STEVE PEOPLES

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Another Republican governor seen as a potential presidential contender is facing controversies at home that could undermine any ambitions of making a run for the White House.

Scott Walker, the governor of Wisconsin, faces accusations by prosecutors who believe he acted criminally by coordinating the fundraising and spending of outside conservative groups, in violation of election laws.

That follows the humbling of Chris Christie, the New Jersey governor whose staff restricted access to a busy bridge from New Jersey into Manhattan in an apparent act of political retribution against a mayor who refused to endorse him.

They're two of the highest-profile Republican governors, both with hopes for the White House in 2016. And in a midterm election year, when would-be presidential candidates like to showcase their accomplishments, they are instead dealing with the fallout of controversies at home. For Christie, the story has already moved on to his recovery. He and his advisers believe the worst of his political troubles are behind him, in part because no evidence has come to light that he was personally involved in the bridge scandal that prompted him to fire his top political adviser and deputy chief of staff.

For Walker, the troubles may be just beginning. Documents released Thurs-

day put the polarizing governor at the center of an investigation into campaigns in 2011 and 2012. Also named were his two closest political advisers, one of whom is his former chief of staff.

That investigation has yet to yield any charges, and Walker and others argue the activities deemed by prosecutors as illegal aren't governed by the state's

the same way Christie was earlier in the year.

"The media jumps on this. Some on the left spin this. You've got your detractors out there trying to claim there's something more than there is," he said.

Unlike Christie, whose next appearance on a ballot may be part of the 2016 presidential campaign, Walker will face voters at home before he can turn

the past few weeks that he's stepped up his public appearances, returning to late-night television and even delving into foreign policy. On Friday, after addressing a conference of religious conservatives in Washington, he'll make his first trip to the early presidential primary state of New Hampshire since news of the bridge allegations became national



Wisconsin Republican Gov. Scott Walker speaks in Milwaukee. First it was Chris Christie, humbled by members of his staff who shut down a bridge from New Jersey into Manhattan in an apparent act of political retribution. Now it's Walker, who prosecutors in Wisconsin believe acted criminally by coordinating the fundraising and spending of outside conservative groups. They're two of the nation's highest-profile Republican governors, both with hopes for the White House in 2016.

(AP Photo/Jeffrey Phelps)

election laws — a question that's now pending before a federal appeals court. Walker defended himself Friday in a television interview. "This is not new news; it's just newly released yesterday. Documents were opened, but no charges. Case over," he said on Fox News.

Walker said there was "no doubt" that he's being attacked unfairly much in

his attention to a bid for the White House.

That Christie won re-election last year has given him the space to first offer contrition for the actions of his staff and then slowly re-emerge as a potential presidential candidate. For the past five months, he's traveled the U.S. raising millions for the Republican Governors Association as its chairman. It's only in

headlines. Walker rose to fame by leading the effort in Wisconsin to effectively end collective bargaining for most public workers, an act that led to a tightly contested election in 2011 in which Republicans narrowly retained control of the Wisconsin state Senate and a 2012 recall election in which he beat back an effort to remove him from office. □

Unemployment rates fell in 20 US states over May

C.S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unemployment fell in 20 states last month and nearly three-quarters of the states added jobs, as the nation at large posted a fourth straight month of solid hiring.

Unemployment rates rose in 16 states and were unchanged in 14 states, the Labor Department said Friday. Meanwhile, hiring rose in 36 states and declined in 14.

The biggest drops in unemployment rates occurred in Illinois, where the rate fell to 7.5 percent from 7.9 percent, and Massachusetts, where it fell to 5.6 percent from 6 percent. Georgia reported the largest increase, to 7.2 percent from 6.9 percent.

Nationwide, employers added 217,000 jobs in May, the fourth straight month of gains above 200,000. That's the first such stretch since 1999. The unemployment rate remained at 6.3 percent, matching a five-year low.

Some of the unemployment rate declines occurred because many of those out of work gave up on their job hunts. The government doesn't count people as unemployed unless they are actively looking for work.

There is another reason that so many states added jobs but far fewer saw a decline in their unemployment rates. The unemployment rate and job figures sometimes diverge because they come from two separate surveys. The job gains are derived from a survey of businesses, the unemployment rate from a survey of households.

The two surveys can sometimes produce different results, though they usually even out over time. For example, the employer survey in Illinois found a tiny job loss, but the survey of households in that state found that about 9,000 more people said they were employed. That's why its rate fell. □

Murder charge still pending against woman, 102

DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON (AP) — A 102-year-old woman accused of killing her 100-year-old roommate in a nursing home nearly five years ago is facing a second-degree murder charge.

Laura Lundquist — the oldest murder defendant in Massachusetts history — was 98 when she was

charged in 2009 on allegations that she strangled Elizabeth Barrow, who was found with a plastic bag tied around her head in her bed at the Brandon Woods nursing home in Dartmouth. Lundquist had a longstanding diagnosis of dementia and was ruled incompetent to stand trial. Since her indictment, she has been held at a state

psychiatric hospital.

Barrow's son, Scott, said he realizes Lundquist will likely never stand trial in his mother's death. "It would be like prosecuting a 2-year-old," he said. "It's just an awful thing that happened. How could she be held accountable for this when she's not in her right mind?"

After Lundquist was indict-

ed in 2009, Bristol County District Attorney Sam Sutter said prosecutors pursued a second-degree murder charge because they didn't believe Lundquist had the cognitive ability to form premeditation, which must be proven in a first-degree murder case. Sutter's spokesman, Gregg Miliote, said the case remains open. □

Obama expands government benefits for gay couples

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A year after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a law barring federal recognition of gay marriages, the Obama administration granted an array of new benefits Friday to same-sex couples, including those who live in states where



President Barack Obama speaks on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington. The Obama administration will work to ensure that gay and lesbian Americans are eligible to take leave from their jobs to care for a same-sex spouse, regardless of whether they live in a state that recognizes gay marriage, the White House said Friday, June 20, 2014.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

gay marriage is against the law.

The new measures range from Social Security and veterans benefits to work leave for caring for sick spouses. They are part of President Barack Obama's efforts to expand whatever protections he can offer to gays and lesbians even though more than half of the states don't recognize gay marriage. That effort has been confounded by laws that say some benefits should be conferred only to couples whose marriages are recognized by the states where they live, rather than the states where they were married.

Aiming to circumvent that issue, the Veterans Affairs Department will start letting gay people who tell the government they are married to a veteran to be buried alongside them in a national cemetery, drawing on the VA's authority to waive the usual marriage requirement.

In a similar move, the Social Security Administration will start processing some survivor and death benefits for those in same-sex relationships who live in states that don't recognize gay

marriage. Nineteen states plus the District of Columbia currently recognize gay marriage, although court challenges to gay marriage bans are pending in many states. For Tim Fagen of Fort Collins, Colorado, the implications could be profound. A retired electrical engineer, Fagen receives higher government pension

At the same time, Holder urged Congress to adopt legislation that Democratic lawmakers have proposed

that let the VA and Social Security extend benefits to married couples living in non-gay marriage states.

Obama was lending his support to those efforts in Congress, the White House said. □



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Sisters of St. Charles protest neighborhood strip club

JULIE BOSMAN

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STONE PARK, Ill. - It was a muggy afternoon, but the Sisters of St. Charles were wearing turtlenecks, long-sleeved habits and stockings as they gathered next to a microphone and an unsavory stretch of four-lane highway. They stood on the sidewalk below a billboard picturing a blonde who appeared to be wearing only eyeliner and a come-hither look: a jumbo-size invitation to Club Allure, a 20,000-square-foot strip club that is a newcomer to the neighborhood.

The nuns want to see the strip club gone. Last week, they filed a lawsuit against the owners of Club Allure, which opened last year just over the backyard fence from the quiet convent where close to two dozen nuns live.

The nuns aired a long list of grievances:

They have been forced to endure loud, pulsating music at night that interrupts their prayers; blinking neon lights that are visible from

outside the club; and trash littering the area, including used syringes, empty whiskey bottles and discarded

club to be built despite an Illinois requirement of a 1,000-foot buffer between adult entertainment busi-

that the Thomas More Society, a religious nonprofit firm that is providing legal services to the nuns, "will



Sister Alma Rosa Huerta of Sisters of St. Charles speaks to supporters during a protest against Club Allure, a strip club, in Stone Park, Ill., June 18, 2014. The nuns recently filed a lawsuit against the owners of Club Allure, which opened last year near their convent, saying the location violated state law and the noise disturbed their prayers.

(Megan Bearder/The New York Times)

condoms.

They also charge that the Village of Stone Park, which is named in the lawsuit, illegally permitted the

nesses and places of worship.

"It's not respectful," said Sister Noemí Silva, one of the nuns who is leading the charge against Club Allure, her voice rasping from exhaustion. "We've tried everything else for two years while they were planning it. They shouldn't be there. Enough is enough."

The proprietors of the club insist that their presence is perfectly legal and that they have no reason to leave. Sean O'Brien, a managing partner, watched the nuns from the club's nearly empty parking lot on Wednesday, taking nervous sips from a bottle of Fiji water.

"I grew up Catholic, so I do understand all of this," said O'Brien, 40. "They make us out to be monsters. But we treat the girls who work here like daughters." (He then admitted to feeling "a little bit" like a bad Catholic.)

Robert Itzkow, a lawyer for the club, said the nuns' charges of loud noise and bothersome lights were "an absolute fabrication." "Our presence bothers them on an ideological level," Itzkow said, adding

have about as much success with this as they did attacking same-sex marriage in Illinois."

The dispute in this slightly run-down, working-class enclave just west of Chicago has drawn the attention of neighbors, many of whom have rallied to the nuns' side, complaining about late-night noise and increased traffic. Several of them said there were plenty of strip clubs in the area already, pointing to Scores, a club down the street that promises "Chicago's best exotic dancers."

On Wednesday, a handful of neighbors and community activists trailed behind several nuns as they marched down a side street from their convent to the entrance of Club Allure, where they faced local news cameras and held handwritten signs reading, "Ya basta de strip clubs en Stone Park" ("Enough already with strip clubs in Stone Park") and "Allure is bad for Stone Park."

"I know it breaks their heart over there," said Boyd Pletcher, 61, who lives in a brick house across the alley from the convent. "This is a peaceful neighborhood."

People are trying to raise their families, and they've got adult entertainment to deal with? It's not right."

The drama over Club Allure goes back to 2009, when Itzkow applied to the Village of Stone Park, asking for a property to be rezoned so that he could open a strip club there. The village denied his application, in part because of the property's proximity to the convent, said Dean W. Krone, the lawyer for Stone Park.

Itzkow then sued the village, prompting it to spend more than \$200,000 in legal fees fighting him off. Eventually, the village settled the lawsuit and in 2010 agreed to allow Itzkow to build his strip club.

It was six months later, in early 2011, that the village received a letter from the nuns next door.

"The letter said they were very upset to learn that there was a club being built next door to them," Krone said.

The nuns said in their lawsuit that the presence of the club had taken a toll on them, particularly the nuns who are in their 90s and no longer active.

"The impact on the aged and retired sisters, however,

has been cause for sleep deprivation, emotional upset, and health risks and perils," the lawsuit said, adding that a garden tended by the nuns had been "overshadowed from time to time by the hulking mass of the huge strip club just a few feet away."

Some neighbors who attended the rally on Wednesday said they had heard stories of fights and violence around the club. "I don't want the place in our community," said Estela Vara, 42. "It's not good for my children to see it there."

Tom Brejcha, a lawyer at the Thomas More Society, said he expected to prevail in court.

"The sisters' position is, if they want to have a strip club, fine," he said. "But let them put it in their own backyard." □

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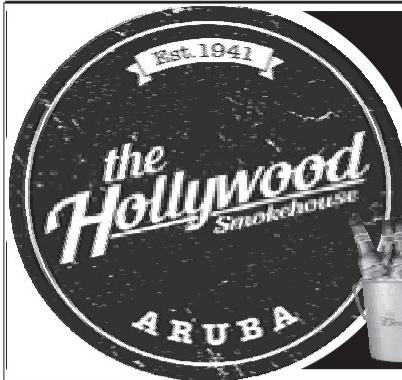
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Top Shiite cleric al-Sistani calls for inclusive government

SAMEER N. YACOUB

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — The spiritual leader of Iraq's Shiite majority called for a new, "effective" government Friday, increasing pressure on the country's prime minister a day after U.S. President Barack Obama challenged him to create a more inclusive leadership or risk a sectarian civil war.

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani's comments at Friday prayers contained thinly veiled criticism that Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, in office since 2006, was to blame for the nation's crisis over the blitz by Sunni insurgents led by an al-Qaida splinter group that seeks to create a new state spanning parts of Iraq and Syria and ruled by its strict interpretation of Islamic law.

Al-Sistani's remarks come as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is expected to travel to Iraq soon to press its government to share more power.

While al-Maliki's State of Law bloc won the most seats in parliament in the Iraq's April 30 election, his hopes for a third term are now in doubt with rivals challenging him from within the broader Shiite alliance. In order to govern, his bloc must first form a coalition with other parties.

And with Iraq asking the U.S. for airstrikes to temper the militants' advance — especially as the insurgents were said to be preparing Friday for another assault on the country's biggest oil refinery — al-Maliki appears increasingly vulnerable.

"It is necessary for the winning political blocs to start

a dialogue that yields an effective government that enjoys broad national support, avoids past mistakes and opens new horizons toward a better future for all Iraqis," al-Sistani said in a message delivered by his representative Ahmed al-Safi in the Shiite holy city of Karbala. The Iranian-born al-Sistani, who is believed to be 86, lives in the Shiite holy city of Najaf south of Baghdad. A recluse, he rarely ventures out of his home and does not give interviews. Iraq's majority Shiites deeply revere him, and a call to arms he made last week prompted thousands of Shiites to volunteer to fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which was once part of al-Qaida. Al-Sistani's call to arms has given the fight against the Islamic State militants the feel of a religious war between Shiites and Sunnis. His office in Najaf dismissed that charge, and al-Safi on Friday said: "The call for volunteers targeted Iraqis from all groups and sects. ... It did not have a sectarian basis and cannot be." Al-Maliki has been seeking to place the blame for the chaos on the Islamic State and not his perceived exclusion of the Sunnis. However, questions persist on how much support, if any, the Islamic State enjoys among the Sunni population in areas it now controls.

Ali Hatem al-Salman, a prominent tribal Sunni leader and a critic of al-Maliki, said Sunni tribesmen would eventually fight the extremist Islamic State. Using the commonly used Arabic acronym for the Islamic State,



Iraqi women living in Iran join a demonstration against Sunni militants of the al-Qaida-inspired Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, and to support the Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's top Shiite cleric, in Tehran, Iran, Friday, June 20, 2014. The posters, background, show Ali al-Sistani, as the poster, front, shows the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

(AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi)

he told The Associated Press on Thursday: "Daash them-

selves know that the tribes will push them out. ... There

can't be any trust given to Daash." □

Race & Sports Book



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Suicide bombing, arrests sparking fear in Lebanon

ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A suicide bomber detonated his vehicle Friday near a police checkpoint in eastern Lebanon, while troops raided two hotels in the capital, arresting 17 suspected members of an al-Qaida breakaway group allegedly plotting terrorist attacks in the country. It was not clear if the two incidents were related. But the bombing — the first since March — along with the security dragnet in and around Beirut sparked fears of renewed violence in a country which has been buffeted by the conflict in neighboring Syria.

Al-Qaida-inspired militants have claimed bombings in the past, particularly against the Shiite group Hezbollah. Still, Friday's bombing was the first in several months, suggesting a possible link to events in Iraq, where the al-Qaida splinter group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, has seized large chunks of territory in the country's north.

A Lebanese security official confirmed that the arrests in Beirut Friday netted suspected members of the group. He spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in line with security regulations.

A security report obtained by the AP suggested members of the group may have been planning multiple suicide attacks following Friday prayers in Beirut. It said at least one of the wanted militants was a Saudi national.

If the claims of the planned terrorist attacks turn out to be true, it would suggest that the group is expanding its operations beyond Syria and Iraq.

The security operation in Beirut's bustling Hamra district began Friday morning. Dozens of security forces blocked roads leading in and out of the area before raiding the Napoleon hotel, where they detained several people. The men were seen being led into police vehicles, arms behind their backs, their faces covered with their T-shirts.

Security forces later entered another nearby hotel. U.S. Ambassador David Hale meanwhile cancelled a visit Friday to the Foreign Ministry for security reasons, the National News Agency said. The U.S. Embassy and the United Nations refugee agency also canceled a meeting scheduled for Friday afternoon in Beirut.

The United States condemned the checkpoint bombing. "These attacks threaten the principles of stability, freedom and safety that the people of Lebanon are working hard to uphold, and we urge all parties to refrain from retaliatory acts that contribute to the cycle of violence," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters.

A meeting organized by Lebanon's Shiite Muslim Amal party scheduled to take place in Beirut was postponed. The party is headed by Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, who was expected to attend the gathering. The event was scrapped based on a report of a planned terrorist attack received by the Interior Ministry, a security official said.

A few hours later, a blast struck the town of Dahr el-Baidar, at the entrance to eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley on a busy highway that links the Lebanese and Syrian capitals.

Lt. Col. Joseph Msallam, a police spokesman, said the explosion killed an officer and wounded 19 people, including six police officers. Troops sealed the area around the explosion.

The official National News Agency said Maj. Gen. Abbas Ibrahim, the powerful head of Lebanon's General Security Directorate, had driven past the site of the explosion in his convoy shortly before the blast. □

Ukraine orders 1-week cease-fire

DAVID McHUGH

M. DOBRNJAKOVIC

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) —

Ukraine's president ordered his forces to cease fire Friday and halt military operations for a week against pro-Russian separatists in the country's east — the first step in a peace plan he hopes will end the fighting that has killed hundreds.

The Kremlin dismissed the plan, saying it sounded like an ultimatum and lacked any firm offer to open talks with insurgents.

Petro Poroshenko, making his first trip to the east as Ukraine's president, said that the cease-fire will run until the morning of June 27 and that his troops reserve the right to fire back if separatists attack them or civilians.

"The Ukrainian army is ceasing fire," he said in a statement. "But this does

not mean that we will not resist. In case of aggression toward our troops, we will do everything to defend the territory of our state."

Separatists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions have declared independence from his government in Kiev, occupied public buildings and fought with heavy weapons against Ukrainian troops.

Rebel leaders have already dismissed Poroshenko's plan, and it remains to be seen whether they will comply and how much pressure Russia will put on them to cease fire.

The Kremlin denies supporting the insurrection and has said that Russians fighting in Ukraine are doing so as private citizens.

Russia said in a statement that an initial analysis of Poroshenko's plan shows that "it's not an invitation for peace and talks, but an ultimatum" to insur-

gents in southeast Ukraine to lay down their weapons. It said the plan "lacks the main element — an offer to start talks."

The Kremlin said Poroshenko's government issued the peace plan "deliberately or accidentally" at roughly the same moment that Ukrainian forces fired into Russian territory, wounding a Russian customs officer. It said the Russian side was waiting for Ukrainian "explanations and excuses" over the attack.

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry said that its forces were trying to flush out insurgents near the border checkpoint, but denied targeting it.

Leonid Slutsky, a senior lawmaker in the lower house of Russian parliament, said Russian President Vladimir Putin could be waiting to see concrete action by the Ukrainian forces to stop fighting. □



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, left, talks with local residents in Svyatogorsk close to Slovyansk in the Donetsk region, Ukraine, Friday, June 20, 2014. Clashes between government forces and pro-Russian separatist fighters flared ahead of the publication of a presidential peace plan that includes a unilateral cease-fire.

(AP Photo/Mykhailo Markiv, Pool)

Berlusconi appeals bunga bunga conviction

MILAN (AP) — Silvio Berlusconi's legal challenge to a conviction of paying for sex with an under-age prostitute opened Friday as the ex-premier spent his seventh morning working with Alzheimer's patients as part of a tax-fraud sentence.

Berlusconi is appealing a conviction, seven-year prison sentence and life-time ban from politics. He denies having had sex with a Moroccan teenager, Karima el-Mahroug, better known as Ruby the Heart-Stealer, amid a wider scandal of racy, sex-fueled "bunga bunga" parties at the then-premier's villa near Milan.

The appeals trial is focused on technicalities and is expected to conclude in four sessions, with a possible verdict July 18.

Berlusconi, 77, is performing community service four hours a week as part of his sentence for tax fraud. The four-year sentence was reduced to one year under a general amnesty, which can be applied to first convictions. Verdicts in Italy are not considered final until all appeals are exhausted, which usually means a final appeal to Italy's supreme Cassation Court. □

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Refugees at levels not seen since World War II

NICK CUMMING-BRUCE

© 2014 New York Times

GENEVA - The number of people displaced by violent conflict hit the highest level since World War II at the end of 2013, the head of the U.N. refugee agency, António Guterres, said in a report released Friday, warning that "peace is dangerously in deficit."

Pushed up dramatically by the war in Syria, the total number of people displaced by violence reached more than 51 million at the end of 2013, according to the agency's "Global Trends" report for the year. This included 33.3 million people who fled violence but remained in their own country and 16.7 million refugees who fled to neighboring countries, it said.

"We are not facing an increasing trend; we are really facing a quantum leap," Guterres told reporters in Geneva, noting that close to 11 million people were newly displaced in 2013.

Half the world's population of displaced people are children, he added, the highest level in a decade.

"There is no humanitarian response able to solve the problems of so many people," he warned. "It's becoming more and more difficult to find the capacity and resources to deal with so many people in such tragic circumstances."

Moreover, the impact of conflicts raging this year in Central African Republic, South Sudan, Ukraine and now Iraq threatens to push levels of displacement even higher by the end of 2014, he said.

"What this demonstrates is that the international community today has very limited capacity to prevent conflicts and to find timely

solutions," Guterres said, spotlighting the failure of global powers to work effectively together. "We see the Security Council paralyzed in many crucial crises."

To make matters worse, the consequences of past

conflicts "never seem to die," Guterres said. Iran and Pakistan still host more than 2.5 million Afghan refugees, and more than 6 million people have been in exile for five years or more.

The number of refugees

returning to their countries in 2013 was one of the lowest levels of recent years at 414,000, the refugee agency reported, while the number of people taken in for resettlement by other countries totaled just 98,400.



Displaced residents of Mosul, Iraq, receive food from aid workers at a refugee camp near Irbil, Iraq, June 18, 2014. The number of people displaced by violent conflict hit the highest level since World War II at the end of 2013, according to a United Nations report.

(Bryan Denton/The New York Times)

In addition to refugees, more than 1.1 million people had applied for asylum in 2013, the highest number in a decade, Guterres reported. A particularly worrying trend was the growing number of children traveling unaccompanied. Those applying for asylum were just a small minority of the total number of children trying to make their way along migration routes in all parts of the world.

But amid mounting anxiety in Western countries over immigration and the flow of migrants to their shores, Guterres was quick to puncture any illusion that developed countries of the North were hosting most of the world's refugees.

"The truth is that 86 percent of the world's refugees are living in developing countries," he said, a much higher proportion than 10 years ago. "The trend is not only to have more and more refugees but more and more refugees in the developing world." □

Pope's view on legalizing drugs: Just say no

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) —

Pope Francis condemned the legalization of recreational drugs as a flawed and failed experiment as he lent his voice Friday to a debate that is raging from the United States to Uruguay. Francis told delegates attending a Rome drug enforcement conference that even limited steps to legalize recreational drugs "are not only highly questionable from a legislative standpoint, but they fail to produce the desired effects."

"Let me state this in the clearest terms possible,"

he said. "The problem of drug use is not solved with drugs!"

"Drug addiction is an evil, and with evil there can be no yielding or compromise. To think that harm can be reduced by permitting drug addicts to use narcotics in no way resolves the problem," he added.

Francis has years of personal experience ministering to addicts in the drug-laden slums of the Argentine capital, and he frequently has railed against drug abuse and the drug traffickers who fuel the market. But his comments Friday marked his strongest and clearest yet as pope di-

rected at the movement to legalize recreational pot, which has been gaining ground in recent years, particularly in the U.S. and South America.

Recreational use of marijuana has been legalized in the U.S. states of Colorado and Washington, and Oregon may vote on the issue this year.

In Francis' own homeland of Argentina, personal possession of controlled substances has been decriminalized. Next door in Brazil, authorities don't punish personal drug use, although trafficking and transporting controlled substances is a crime. In

December, neighboring Uruguay became the first nation to approve marijuana legalization and regulation altogether.

Oddly enough, Argentina's drug czar, who believes Argentina deserves a debate about whether to follow Uruguay's lead, is a Roman Catholic priest.

But Francis believes just the opposite. As archbishop of Buenos Aires, he had his priests open drug rehab centers in the Buenos Aires slums where "paco" addiction was rampant, and he famously washed the feet of recovering paco addicts during at least two Holy Thursday services. □

Fidel's former limos reborn as Havana taxicabs

PETER ORSI
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — In a former life they were the "comandante's" cars: A fleet of black, boxy, Soviet-made limousines that for years were at the disposal of the presidency in Fidel Castro's Cuba. Today the limos have been decommissioned and repurposed as Havana taxi cabs, at the service of tourists who want a little slice of history to go with their ride across town.

"When I tell (travelers) where the car came from, they sit in the seat back there and ... stretch their legs and say, 'I can't believe it!'" said Moises Suarez, 58, who has been behind the wheel of one of the ex-presidential limos for the last three years.

The luxury automobiles were produced by Russian manufacturers GAZ and ZIL in the 1960s and '70s. Those sent to Cuba reportedly included a ZIL-111 convertible model that was the first of its kind to roll off the assembly line, a personal gift to Castro from Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev.

They were often used to ferry around visiting dignitaries. At least one of the limos was used occasionally by Castro himself, though he usually preferred a military-style jeep for his own transportation needs.

When former U.S. President Jimmy Carter paid a historic visit in 2002, Castro — who always had a flair for stage-management — picked him up at the airport in a Soviet stretch despite the fact that by that time

the presidency had acquired a fleet of slick Mercedes Benzes. Suarez, who drives for state-owned Cubataxi, said about 14 of the cars passed into the hands of the company about five years ago, and 10 are still on the road. Many aspects of his GAZ-built Chaika — Russian for "seagull" — are

cades under Castro (the policy was removed from the constitution in the 1990s). The limo seats six passengers in relative comfort. But despite the extra leg room, it can hardly be considered a luxury ride anymore. The faux wooden inlay is chipped and peeling, and the faded, brown-

capital. On a recent morning, a group of Spanish tourists took turns having their photo taken next to and inside the car as it sat parked beneath the massive, pyramidal monument honoring Cuban independence hero Jose Marti. "It's exciting to be able to get inside a historic



Taxi driver Moises Suarez navigates the Soviet-made limousine that he rents from the government in Havana, Cuba. Today the fleet of limos that were once part of Fidel Castro's fleet have been decommissioned and repurposed as Havana taxi cabs, at the service of tourists who want a little slice of history to go with their ride across town. (AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)

original, from the camel-colored headliner to the radio with its buttons and knobs labeled in Cyrillic lettering. At some point a Mercedes engine was swapped in, however, similar to the way that 1950s Detroit classics in Havana are still running thanks to makeshift monkey-wrenching.

On the driver's-side door, Suarez has affixed a small sign that says "Smile, Jesus loves you" — a small irony for a country that was officially atheist for de-

floral upholstery emits a smell best described as musty with perhaps a hint of stale cigar. Still, it's a novel way to cruise down the seaside Malecon boulevard or through Revolution Plaza, where a massive sculpture of Argentine-born revolutionary leader Ernesto "Che" Guevara gazes stone-faced from the side of a building. Suarez said fares are negotiable, from just a few bucks for a quick trip to \$100-\$140 for an all-day road trip outside the

piece of Cuba," said Miquel Torres, who was visiting from Barcelona. "It's a very different kind of car."

As Suarez drives through the city, heads turn constantly. Not only tourists but also Cubans, who instantly recognize it as one of Fidel's fleet.

"A lot of drivers pull up next to me at stoplights," Suarez said. "They start laughing and they say, 'You never imagined you would be driving the comandante's car, eh?' 'You have a great car in your hands.' □

CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Antigua police kill man convicted in '08 Welsh slaying

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Authorities in Antigua say a man serving a life sentence in the Caribbean island for killing a honeymooning Welsh couple has been fatally shot by police after escaping from prison. Police spokesman Cpl. Frankie Thomas said in a phone interview Friday that Avie Howell was taken to a hospital after a confrontation with police and was pronounced dead. He says Howell was armed and charged at police, but declines to provide further details.

Thomas says police are still looking for an inmate who escaped with Howell.

Howell was one of two men convicted in the 2008 killing of Benjamin and Catherine Mullany of Wales. He was sentenced in 2011 to three consecutive life sentences for killing the couple and a shopkeeper. He was awaiting trial in two other deaths. □

Report: Puerto Rico sees drop in unemployment

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Puerto Rico's unemployment rate has dropped for the third consecutive month, though the number of payroll jobs in the U.S. territory also fell.

The U.S. Labor Department said Friday that the island's unemployment rate stood at 13.8 percent in May. It remains higher than any U.S. state.

The department's Bureau of Labor Statistics also said the number of people on non-farm payrolls dropped slightly to 929,300 in May.

Industry sectors including construction and manufacturing saw slight increases, while the number of government jobs decreased.

The island of 3.67 million people has entered its eighth year of recession and is battling a more than \$70 billion public debt. □

Venezuela bars Machado from leaving country

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A Venezuelan court has barred an opposition leader from leaving the country.

The government has accused Maria Corina Machado of plotting with the U.S. to oust Ven-

ezuelan president Nicolas Maduro. Machado denies the allegations. Earlier this year, Venezuela's National Assembly stripped Machado of her seat after she spoke out against the administration and participated in anti-

government protests. Wealthy, English-speaking Machado has frequently traveled to other countries and criticized Venezuela's socialist administration. National Assembly president Diosdado Cabello

announced the court's decision on state-run television Thursday. Machado's attorney called the announcement irregular, and told The Associated Press that Machado had not been officially notified of the travel ban. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Loyal Visitors Honored at the Aruba Divi Phoenix

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. James and Mrs. Barbara Jones of Kendall Park, New Jersey, Mr. Cleveland Mair and Mrs. Leslie Grant of Laverock, Pennsylvania, and Mr. Michael and Mrs. Patricia Maione of Barnegat, New Jersey. All the honorees are loyal members of the Divi Phoe-



nix Beach Resort, and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, beaches, restaurants, and casinos! The honorees say Aruba

feels like a second home where the people are like a family to them, and the Divi Phoenix is their vacation 'home-away-from-home.' The certificates

were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Avril and Mr. Gerritt Griffith GM of the Divi Phoenix. □



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In Washington, DC: Aruban Born Ruth Harms Decorated By the Dutch Ambassador



A happy Ruth Harms smiles after being inducted into the Royal Order of Oranje-Nassau.

ORANJESTAD/WASHINGTON, DC - The birthday of the King of the Netherlands is the traditional occasion when the Dutch honor those who merit to be honored. In Aruba, four of the eleven persons elected to the elite Royal Order of Oranje-Nassau could not be present to receive their certificate, medal and ribbon from the hands of Aruba's Governor Refunjol. Among these four was Aruban born Esther Ruth Harms, Case Management Supervisor at the Big Brothers & Big Sisters Organization of Hampshire County, Massachusetts.

Last week, on Friday June 13th, Ruth was formally inducted into the Royal Order



Ruth Harms with husband Dr. Stephen Hickman and their eldest daughter Sarah Elizabeth.

der and received the Order's paraphernalia from the hands of the Honorable Rudolf Bekink, the Netherlands' Ambassador in Washington, DC, during a dignified yet festive ceremony at the Ambassador's residence. As Holland had just whipped the Spanish team 5-1 at the World Cup 2014 in Brazil, the mood was very festive indeed. Ruth was honored for her outstanding and compassionate service at Big Brother Big Sister of Hampshire County, MA, during a quarter of a century and for her two decades of dedicated participation in the volunteer UMASS International Students Hospitality Program that she now presides. The hospitality program connects foreign students at University of Massachusetts at Amherst with host families in the community. Big Brothers Big Sisters is the largest volunteer-supported youth mentoring organization of the United States.

Ruth was also cited for her long-standing commitment

to the yearly Martin Luther King Birthday Breakfast, an event that raises millions for scholarships to those in need.

Four years ago the Northwestern Children's Advocacy Project honored Ruth with the Ellen Sedlis Award which is presented annually to "someone whose work demonstrates a long-term commitment to helping children recover from abuse" and the State of Massachusetts presented her with a Citation that reads "In recognition of her outstanding dedication and many valuable contributions for years to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County."

Ruth Harms is married to Dr. Stephen Hickman, an associate pediatrician at Amherst Pediatrics. The couple will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary in December. They have two adult children, Sarah Elizabeth and Rachel. Over a decade the Aruban Tourism Authority named ago Ruth and Stephen Ambassadors of Goodwill. □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Tiger Woods to return to competition next week

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

Feeling rusty but ready to play again, Tiger Woods said Friday he would return to competition next week at Congressional in the Quicken Loans National. Woods last played on March 9 at Doral, where he dealt with pain in his lower back and closed with a 78 for his highest final-round score on the PGA Tour. He had back surgery March 31, forcing him to miss the Masters for the first time. He also missed the U.S. Open last week at Pinehurst No. 2.

The announcement on his Facebook page delivered a jolt of good news to golf. Woods has been the game's biggest draw since he turned pro in 1996, and with limited information about his recovery, speculation was starting to build that he might not make it to any majors this year.

"After a lot of therapy, I have recovered well and will be supporting my foundation next week at the Quicken Loans National," Woods said on Facebook. "I've just started to hit full shots, but it's time to take the next step. I will be a bit rusty, but I want to play myself back into competitive shape. Excited for the challenge ahead."

This is the first year for a new title sponsor at the PGA Tour event that donates its charity money to the Tiger Woods Foundation, and the tournament earlier this year secured an agreement to return to Congressional every other year through 2020.

Continued on Page 19



WIE'S WORLD

Wie takes 3-shot lead in U.S. Women's Open

Michelle Wie chips to the 14th hole during the second round of the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament in Pinehurst, N.C., Friday, June 20, 2014.

Page 18

Associated Press



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Wie sets a standard in Women's Open at Pinehurst

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PINEHURST, North Carolina (AP) —

Michalle Wie and Lexi Thompson are the only two players under par at the U.S. Women's Open after Friday's second round at the demanding Pinehurst course.

Wie finished with back-to-back birdies for a 2-under 68 to give her a three-stroke lead at 4-under 136, while Lexi Thompson ran off three straight birdies to match her for the lowest score Friday and remain in touch.

Their second-round performances perhaps set up a rematch from the first major of the year when Thompson soundly beat Wie in the final round at the Kraft Nabisco Championship.

"Definitely too early," Thompson said. "Thirty-six holes in a major, that's a lot of golf to be played, especially at a U.S. Women's Open." Wie relied on her table-top putting stance to twice make long par saves. She finished with a 6-iron that set up a 12-foot birdie putt, and a 15-foot birdie on the par-5 ninth to reach 4-under 136.

"It's a grind out there. It's not easy," Wie said. "Really grateful for the par putts that I made and some of the birdie putts that I made. I can't complain. I'll take it."

Just when it looked as if Wie might run away with it, Thompson pulled off a remarkable shot to remain in contention.

From the sand and bushes left of the fairway on the par-5 fifth hole, Thompson blasted a 5-iron from 195 yards just off the green, setting up two putts for birdie from about 60 feet.

That was her third straight birdie, and she closed with four pars.

Stacy Lewis, the No. 1 player in



Michelle Wie watches her tee shot on the 13th hole during the second round of the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament in Pinehurst, N.C., Friday, June 20, 2014.

Associated Press

women's golf who opened with a bogey-free 67, picked up a bogey on her first hole in a wild round of six bogeys, three birdies and a tough 73.

"I hung around, and that's what you've got to do at this tournament," said Lewis, at even-par with Amy Yang (69) and Minjee Lee, the 18-year-old amateur from Australia who played bogey-free on the back nine to salvage a 71. Lucy Li, the precocious 11-year-old and youngest qualifier in the history of the U.S. Women's Open, started with a double bogey for the second straight day and shot another 78 to miss the cut.

The cut was 9-over 149.

Na Yeon Choi had a 70 and was at 1-over 141, followed by a Paula Creamer (72) at 2-over 142. The group at 143 included Karrie Webb (73) and So Yeon Ryu, who saved her hopes with three straight birdies on the front nine. All of them are former Women's Open champions. "When you think seven shots, you think that's a lot," Karrie Webb said after battling for a 73, leaving her seven shots behind. "But really at the U.S. Open, I don't think that's too far out."

Wie is in contention on the weekend in her second straight major. The last time that happened

was when she was 16 and had a chance in three of them. Wie already has won this year in Hawaii, and she has eight top 10s and is No. 2 on the LPGA money list.

Attribute that to a putting stroke that she owns, no matter how peculiar it looks with her back bent severely, almost parallel to the ground.

"You look at the way Michelle has played the last six months and you look at her differently," Lewis said. "She's become one of the best ball-strikers on tour. She hits it really consistent. She knows where the ball's going. And she's figuring out how to win. That's the big thing." □



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Tiger Woods

Continued from Page 17

Woods on Thursday announced that he signed a new endorsement deal with MusclePharm, which will display its logo on his golf bag.

"He has been the face of golf for the last 15, 20 years, and golf is a better sport and a better place with Tiger Woods in it," two-time major champion Rory McIlroy said last week at the U.S. Open. "So hopefully, he has a speedy recovery and he gets back on the course soon, because any tournament where Tiger Woods is a factor, he creates a big buzz."

This is the second-longest break Woods has taken from golf because of injury. He missed the second half of the 2008 season when he had reconstructive surgery on his left knee just a week after winning the U.S. Open for his 14th major.

Even though he spent

the offseason working on his body, there were signs early that something might be wrong.

He missed the 54-hole cut at Torrey Pines, where he was the defending champion and an eight-time winner at one of his favorite courses. He had his worst finish ever at Dubai when he tied for 41st. Then, he withdrew in the final round of the Honda Classic because of back spasms, and despite being in the penultimate group at Doral, he struggled badly with his back on the final day after taking a swing from an awkward stance outside a bunker.

Wood had microdiscectomy surgery a week before the Masters, and he has said in rare appearances that he did not know how long it would take to properly heal. His agent, Mark Steinberg at Excel Sports Management, said earlier this week that Woods was making enough progress to extend his swing.

Even so, playing the Quick-

en Loans National was thought to be too soon. It couldn't come soon enough for the tournament.

"We're thrilled, obviously," said Mike Antolini, the tournament director and vice president of championships for the Tiger Woods Foundation. "Anytime you get that call and Tiger is in your field, it's really the best news you can get. The fact he's a two-time champion and the tournament hosts, we're very excited for the fans."

He said he expected a spike in ticket sales with Friday's announcement.

The strength of Quicken Loans National field has suffered in recent years as more Europeans moved into the top 20 in the world, and they headed across the Atlantic Ocean as the European Tour headed places like Ireland, France and Scotland leading up to the British Open.

Adam Scott, who has replaced Woods at No. 1 in the world while he has



In this May 19, 2014 file photo, golfer Tiger Woods speaks at a Quicken Loans National PGA tournament media day news conference at Congressional Country Club, in Bethesda, Md.

Associated Press

been out, was not planning to return this year.

"To be honest, we were prepared regardless for a good event," Antolini said. "Our ticket sales, we think they're going to be increased on this news now."

Three years ago, Woods withdrew after nine holes at The Players Championship because of an Achilles tendon injury and missed more than two months. He

said then he had learned from past mistakes and would not try to return before he was in full health.

Assuming he is at full strength now, he likely will be at the British Open at Royal Liverpool and the PGA Championship at Valhalla, where he won majors the last time they were held on those courses. Woods been stuck on 14 majors since that '08 U.S. Open victory. □

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CASINO AND SHOPS

World Cup of big surprises smiles on Americas

JOHN LEICESTER

AP Sports Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—The World Cup of surprises is turning into a sweet samba party for teams from the Americas.

Having already stunned one former world champion, little Costa Rica shocked another on Friday and sent a third one home. Then the French exploded with five goals against their Swiss neighbors. In the evening game, Ecuador downed Honduras 2-1.

The story so far: Two European powers — Spain and England — are out of contention after just two games. European teams have played eight teams from the Americas and won just twice. The nine teams from Africa and Asia



Honduras' goalkeeper Noel Valladares, right, can't stop Ecuador's Enner Valencia shot as he scores his side's first goal during the group E World Cup soccer match between Honduras and Ecuador at the Arena da Baixada in Curitiba, Brazil, Friday, June 20, 2014. Associated Press

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already preparing for a knockout game.

The only two European nations to have beaten Americas teams so far in Brazil are France and Switzerland, which overcame Honduras and Ecuador, respectively, in their first Group E matches. On Friday, France and Switzerland played each other in Salvador, also on the coast. The French were rampant winners, 5-2, all but guaranteeing they, too, will advance to the last 16 for only the second time since they won the title in 1998.

Switzerland coach Ottmar Hitzfeld tipped France to go "very far in this tournament" after it shredded his team's defenses and reputation as tough to break down. Five different players scored for France.

If it stays on top of Group E, it will likely face Iran, Nigeria or Bosnia in the last 16. They should all be manageable opponents for the talented French who are rebuilding their reputation ruined by a training ground strike by players at the last World Cup. Friday marked the fourth anniversary of that debacle in South Africa. Attackers Olivier Giroud and Karim Benzema each scored one goal and created another against the Swiss. Benzema went 15 games without scoring for France in 2012-2013. He now is among just four players to have three goals in Brazil.

"Karim is confirming that he's in very, very good form. He's in great shape athletically," said France coach Didier Deschamps. "Having such an efficient player is very important in a competition like this."

The outcome of Group E remains undecided even after Honduras' loss in Curitiba to Ecuador, its second defeat of the tournament. France, with two wins and most goals scored and fewest allowed, is best placed to go through.

Costa Rica had never beaten Uruguay in eight previous attempts or Italy in their only meeting in 1994. □

have contrived to win just one game between them. But for teams from the Americas, their record as of Friday against nations from other regions: played 12, lost just two. Ole! In short, the new world is embarrassing the old one.

None of the previous seven World Cups in the Americas were won by teams outside Latin America. On current evidence, this one looks increasingly unlikely to be the exception. Although the score was just 1-0, Costa Rica was a convincing winner Friday over four-time champion Italy in the coastal city of Recife. Having also won its first match, 3-1, against two-time winner Uruguay, Costa Rica is now guaranteed a spot in the knockout stage. Costa Rica's win also killed off England's faint hopes of advancing. Italy and Uruguay will play each other Tuesday to determine which of them joins Costa Rica in advancing from Group D and which will join 1966 champion England and 2010 winner Spain in phoning their travel agents.

Costa Rica, with just 5 million people, was seen as the easy opponent in the group — the first ever with three former world champions. Instead, the Ticos have looked the hungriest team of the four, and are

Pirates beat Reds on Russell walk-off walk in 12th

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Russell Martin drew a bases-loaded walk from Tony Cingrani with two outs in the 12th inning to avoid a three-game sweep.

Devin Mesoraco hit a solo homer off Pirates closer Jason Grilli with one out in the ninth, tying it at 3.

In the Pittsburgh 12th, Gaby Sanchez singled with one out and moved up on a bunt by Cingrani (2-8). Josh Harrison was intentionally walked and Clint Barmes was hit by a pitch with two outs, loading the bases.

Martin drew his walk-off walk on a 3-1 pitch. Normally a starter, Cingrani was Cincinnati's seventh pitcher of the game.

Justin Wilson (2-0) retired the Reds in order in the top of the 12th.

BREWERS 4, DIAMONDBACKS 1

PHOENIX (AP) — Yovani Gallardo outpitched Chase Anderson in seven strong innings, and Carlos Gomez extended his hitting streak to 15 games.

A day after losing to Arizona on a walk-off hit, the Brewers beat the Diamondbacks for the third time in four games behind Gallardo (5-4). The right-hander held Arizona to a run over seven innings for his 86th career win, tying Ben Sheets for fifth on Milwaukee's all-time list.

Gallardo improved to 7-0 in 10 career starts against Arizona.

Francisco Rodriguez worked around a hit in the ninth inning for his majors-leading 23rd save this season and 327th career, moving past Roberto Hernandez for 14th.

The Brewers strung together three runs off Anderson (5-2).

PHILLIES 4, CARDINALS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Ryan Howard homered and drove in three runs and rookie David Buchanan pitched into the eighth inning, sparking the Phillies to a victory over the Cardinals.

Buchanan (3-3) made his deepest start yet, pitching 7 2-3 innings. He allowed four hits and a walk while



Pittsburgh Pirates right fielder Gregory Polanco (25) can't get to a double off the right field wall by Cincinnati Reds' Joey Votto during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh Thursday, June 19, 2014.

striking out four.

Jonathan Papelbon pitched the ninth to pick up 17th save in 19 opportunities.

Shelby Miller (7-6) gave up seven hits and three walks in 6 2-3 innings. Miller has thrown six innings or more in his last four starts.

BRAVES 3, NATIONALS 0

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gavin Floyd, recently returned from Tommy John surgery, pitched six scoreless innings before leaving with a broken elbow, the latest setback for an injury-riddled Atlanta Braves' rotation and one that tempered a 3-0 victory over the Washington Nationals.

Floyd (2-2) was making his ninth start since recovering from ligament replacement surgery. He had been working on a two-hit shutout. He needed only 64 pitches to get through six innings, walking one and striking out six to outduel Jordan Zimmerman (5-4). The win moved the Braves within a half-game of the first-place Nationals atop the NL East as the division rivals opened a four-game series.

Chris Johnson drove in all three of the Braves' runs.

METS 1, MARLINS 0

MIAMI (AP) — Zack Wheeler tossed his first shutout and made David Wright's first-inning home run hold up in the Mets victory over the Marlins.

Wheeler (3-7) outdueled Marlins starter Andrew Heaney, who made his major league debut, in the longest outing of his career. Wheeler, the No. 6 pick in

the 2009 draft, struck out eight. He allowed three hits and one walk as 70 of his 111 pitches went for strikes. Heaney (0-1) gave up four hits in six innings, allowing only Wright's home run.

PADRES 4, MARINERS 1

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Rookie Jesse Hahn pitched seven strong innings and pinch-hitter Chris Denorfia singled in the go-ahead run in a four-run seventh for the Padres, who rallied for the second straight game to beat the Mariners.

Robinson Cano had three singles for the Mariners, who beat the Padres in Seattle on Monday and Tuesday.

Hahn (2-1) was making his third big league start. He held Seattle to an unearned run and five hits, struck out seven and walked two.

Seattle's Erasmo Ramirez, winless since April 1, left with a 1-0 lead after six innings. But Dominic Leone (2-1) allowed runs, three hits and a walk while getting only one out in the seventh. □

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Gasquet through to Eastbourne final

BARRY WOOD
Associated Press

EASTBOURNE, England (AP)

— Top-seeded Richard Gasquet of France and defending champion Feliciano Lopez advanced to the final of the Aegon International on Friday.

In the women's tournament, American Madison Keys defeated Britain's Heather Watson 6-3, 6-1 to make her first WTA final where she faces Angelique Kerber of Germany.

Gasquet eased past Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan 6-4, 6-2 and will be bidding for his 11th career title and first since Moscow in October 2013. Lopez reached his second final in two weeks by defeating American Sam Querrey 6-4, 7-6 (4). He will be chasing his fourth title and first since winning at Eastbourne last year.

The 19-year-old Keys — the youngest player in the top 50 — fought off three break points before tak-



Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki plays a point from behind her back to Germany's Angelique Kerber during their semifinal match at the Aegon International tennis tournament at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, southern England, Friday June 20, 2014. Associated Press

ing the opening set with a single break. "I definitely think I served well ... (it) got me back in some games," Keys said. "Then I think I just returned well a couple of games, and that was really the match." □

Martin extends overall lead at Tour de Suisse

WORB, Switzerland (AP) — Time trial world champion Tony Martin of Germany extended his lead in the Tour de Suisse with a dominant performance against the clock in the race's seventh stage on Friday.

Martin was in a class of his own on the 24.7-kilometer (15-mile) course and beat Tom Dumoulin of the Netherlands by 22 seconds. Portugal's Rui Costa was third, 28 seconds behind Martin. With two mountain stages still to come, Martin leads Dumoulin by 28 seconds in the overall standings, while Costa moved up to third, 1 minute, 5 seconds behind. Saturday's eighth stage takes the peloton from Delmont to the ski resort of Verbier. The tour finishes Sunday. "Now for the weekend, anything is possible," Martin said. "Tomorrow's stage is the easier of the remaining two. The last climb, I hope I



Overall leader German Tony Martin of team Omega Pharma Quick Step cycles during the 7th stage, a 24.5 km race against the clock from Worb to Worb, at the 78th Tour de Suisse UCI ProTour cycling race, in Worb, Switzerland, Friday, June 20, 2014. Associated Press

can treat it like a time trial, find a good rhythm and hang on to the other guys. I have the jersey, but it will not be easy." □

AL Capsules

Swisher's grand slam in 10th gives Indians 5-3 win



Cleveland Indians' Nick Swisher gestures to waiting teammates as he runs home after a 10th inning grand slam to beat the Los Angeles Angels 5-3 in a baseball game Thursday, June 19, 2014, in Cleveland. Associated Press

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Nick Swisher's two-out grand slam off Ernesto Frieri in the 10th inning gave the Cleveland Indians a 5-3 win over the Los Angeles Angels on Thursday.

Swisher had gone 0 for 4 with three strikeouts before he belted a 1-2 pitch into the right-field seats to cap an improbable comeback after Albert Pujols' two-run single put the Angels ahead in the top of the inning.

Pujols' single with two outs gave the Angels a 3-1 lead, but the Indians responded off rookie Cam Bedrosian (0-1). Michael Bourn drew a leadoff walk and took third on Jason Kipnis' one-out double. Carlos Santana walked to load the bases and Frieri replaced Bedrosian. David Murphy flied out before Swisher rallied the Indians.

Kyle Crockett (1-0) retired the final hitter in the 10th for his first major league win.

TIGERS 2, ROYALS 1

DETROIT (AP) — Anibal Sanchez pitched seven sharp innings, and the Detroit Tigers ended Kansas City's 10-game winning streak. J.D. Martinez hit a tiebreaking homer in the fourth for the Tigers, who avoided

a four-game sweep and pulled within a half-game of the AL Central-leading Royals. Sanchez (4-2) allowed five hits and a walk, keeping the Kansas City offense quiet even though he failed to strike out a batter.

Joba Chamberlain pitched the eighth, and struggling closer Joe Nathan struck out the side in the ninth for his 14th save in 18 chances. Danny Duffy (4-6) allowed two runs and three hits in seven innings. He walked one and struck out five.

RAYS 5, ASTROS 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Chris Archer allowed three hits in 6 2/3 innings, Kevin Kiermaier and Evan Longoria homered on consecutive pitches, and the Rays beat the Astros.

Archer (4-4) struck out eight and walked two to help the Rays win for the sixth time in the last 23 games.

Three Tampa Bay relievers completed a three-hitter, sending Houston to its fourth straight loss.

Kiermaier hit a two-run homer before Longoria had a solo drive off Paul Clemens in the seventh.

Collin McHugh (4-5) gave up two unearned runs and four hits over six innings on his 27th birthday.

YANKEES 6, BLUE JAYS 4

NEW YORK (AP) — David Phelps pitched seven strong innings, Carlos Beltran drove in two runs and the Yankees beat Toronto for their 16th consecutive home win over the Blue Jays.

Jacoby Ellsbury stole two bases, scored twice and hit one of three early sacrifice flies for the Yankees off Drew Hutchison (5-5).

Phelps (3-4) yielded two runs and struck out seven in winning his second straight outing after a four-start skid.

The Yankees earned their first three-game sweep at home this season and sliced Toronto's lead in the AL East to 1 1/2 games.

Melky Cabrera and Edwin Encarnacion each hit a two-run homer for the Blue Jays.

ATHLETICS 4, RED SOX 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Scott Kazmir pitched seven innings to win his fourth straight start. Yoenis Cespedes hit his 14th home run of the season and the Athletics beat the Red Sox.

Stephen Vogt had two hits and two RBIs, Jed Lowrie scored twice and John Jaso singled in an insurance run in the seventh to move the A's a season-high 17 games over .500. □

Review: Warming up to tablets with keyboard covers

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

WINNEMUCCA, Nev. (AP)

— It took some travels across the country for me to appreciate a tablet with a keyboard cover.

I've long asked, "Why not just get a laptop?" I didn't see any benefits in turning a tablet into something it is not.

The device I warmed up to isn't Microsoft's Surface tablet, although I'll have more to say on the new model that comes out Friday. Rather, it's the first tablet from Nokia, whose phone and tablet business Microsoft just bought in April.

The Lumia 2520 came across as just another Windows tablet when it was released last fall. My attitude changed once I attached its optional, \$150 keyboard



This Friday, June 20, 2014 photo shows the Lumia 2520 tablet and keyboard, in New York. The tablet starts at about \$600 and the optional keyboard cover is another \$150. Associated Press

cover. The tablet itself starts at about \$600 and includes 4G LTE cellular ca-

pabilities.

Open the cover to reveal a keyboard with six rows of real, movable keys. The bottom of the tablet goes into a slot just above the top row. The top of the tablet is secured with a plastic grip built into the cover. Unfold the cover all the way to get the touch pad for mouse controls.

The cover is bulky and feels like a hardcover book when folded because it incorporates a spare battery. The cover also nearly doubles the weight to about 2.6 pounds. But that battery offers a hard surface underneath the keys and makes it feel as though you're typing on a real laptop. The hard surface also makes it possible to hold the setup with one hand, just like a real laptop.

I appreciated having the Lumia's keyboard cover to look up driving directions from the cramped back seat during a drive down California's Pacific Coast. Typing on a tablet's touchscreen keyboard would have been awkward, and pulling out a full-fledged laptop would have been uncomfortable.

On the flight to California, my 13-inch MacBook laptop was too big when the jerk—I mean passenger—in front of me reclined all the way back. The 10-inch Lumia was just the right size. And on a train from California to Colorado, the

flop down when held with one hand.

The Surface, like the Lumia, also lacks several slots commonly found in laptops, including one for SD memory cards from cameras. The Surface has only one USB port, making it difficult to attach both a printer and an external storage drive. The Lumia doesn't have any, but its keyboard cover has two. You can get four additional USB ports and an Ethernet port for the Surface with a \$200 docking station, but that makes it more of a desktop, not a laptop.

Beyond the specs, using the Surface just doesn't feel the same as using a MacBook. It came apart when I placed it on a sofa's armrest to watch video. And while the Surface is fine for typing on a flat surface, it's not as comfortable as a laptop on a lap, even with the kickstand improvements. Its touch pad is decent, but I still find myself switching to the laptop when I need a lot of mouse controls.

And though the Lumia and the Surface are lighter than a 13-inch MacBook Air, it's only by about a third of a pound for the Lumia and half a pound for the Surface once you add the keyboard.

Both are good tablets on their own, but fall short of being laptop replacements.

As a tablet, the new Surface is the better of the two because it runs a full version of Windows 8. The Lumia runs a pared down version called RT, so apps that aren't specifically designed for it, such as Apple's iTunes, won't install at all. Cheaper versions of the Surface have the same problem, so make sure Pro is in the name.

There are times a tablet with a keyboard cover will be handier than a laptop. Both the Surface and the Lumia are good for that, even though neither is perfect. For Android tablets, I haven't been satisfied with any of the keyboard companions I've tried. Apple doesn't make one for its iPads. □

Report says Apple smartwatch to come this fall

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple is likely to launch a computerized wristwatch this fall that includes more than 10 sensors to take health measurements and other data, according to a published report.

The Wall Street Journal also said Friday that Apple Inc. is planning multiple screen sizes for the device, which some people have dubbed the iWatch.

Samsung, Sony, Qualcomm and others have already released smartwatches, but the gadgets have mostly functioned as companions to smartphones, offering email notifications, clock functions and the like. Samsung's Gear 2 line, released this year, added fitness-related apps and has a heart rate sensor.

There's been longstanding speculation that Apple has been working on a smartwatch. The main question has been when it would come out.

Apple intensified speculation this month when it said the upcoming version of its

mobile operating system, iOS 8, will include tools for managing health data. The software is expected in September, along with new iPhones.

Apple has been under pressure to release new products, as investors question whether the company that popularized the smartphone and the tablet computer is still able to innovate following the death of co-founder Steve Jobs. CEO Tim Cook has hinted at new products coming this year, but the company hasn't provided details.

Citing unnamed people familiar with the matter, the Journal said production of the smartwatch is expected to begin in two or three months at Quanta Computer Inc., a Taiwanese company that has worked on Apple's Mac computers. Sales of the device could begin as early as October.

Apple declined comment in line with its policy of not discussing future products. □

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On the flight to California, my 13-inch MacBook laptop was too big when the jerk—I mean passenger—in front of me reclined all the way back. The 10-inch Lumia was just the right size. And on a train from California to Colorado, the

tablet with the cover was easier to carry to the car with the snack bar.

I was able to type fast and well with the Lumia's keyboard cover. Unfortunately, the touch pad itself doesn't sit on a hard surface, making the cursor hard to control, especially on a lap. And the keyboard is sometimes unresponsive after being idle, requiring me to remove the cover and reconnect it.

The touch pad for Micro-

soft's new 12-inch Surface Pro 3 is better than Lumia's. The new Surface starts at \$799 and needs the \$130 cover to be useful for heavy typing. The models that start shipping Friday are mid-range configurations that cost a few hundred dollars more. There's no cellular version available.

Microsoft bills the new Surface as a laptop replacement,

so I've tried to use it as such over the past month.

The new Surface has a kickstand that is fully adjustable, making it feel like a laptop that can open at various angles. The Lumia offers one resting position only, giving me some neck pain as I write this review with it.

But the Surface's keyboard feels flimsy, as though it's made of cardboard. It attaches to the tablet only with magnets, so either the screen or the keyboard will

Dow 17,000?

Stocks manage gains; Dow, S&P 500 at records

ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writer

Stocks inched past more milestones Friday, delivering the third consecutive

Despite the record-setting moves, it was largely a static day for the stock indexes.

"Generally speaking, any

might breach the 17,000 mark soon.

"If the economy continues to grow the way it's growing and the Federal Re-

was June 10, when it closed at 16,945.92.

The Nasdaq composite gained 8.71 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,368.04. The Nasdaq is still well below its dot-com era peak of just over 5,000.

U.S. government bonds prices were little changed. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note slipped to 2.61 percent from 2.62 percent late Thursday.

The market has been mostly registering small moves, as stocks hover in record territory while questions persist over the resiliency of the U.S. economy and unrest in Iraq and elsewhere. The Federal Reserve's remarks midweek helped nudge the market higher this week, reassuring investors that the central bank intends to continue keeping short-term interest rates low, a policy that's helped make stocks more attractive.

"It clearly was a driver that is definitely helping the market," Memani said. "The markets would have reacted even better than they have so far if the Iraq issue wasn't hanging over the market."

Absent any major geopolitical developments, investors will likely focus next week on the latest batch of housing data.

"Housing has been, as of late, a less-than-stellar horse in the recovery," Wilson said. "A lot of people will parse the housing data pretty carefully and that could move the markets." CarMax was among the stocks driving market action Friday. □



Performance Sports Group CEO Kevin Davis, center, is joined by company CFO Amir Rosenthal, left, former New York Rangers hockey player and general manager Mark Messier, second left, and specialist Anthony Matesic, right, as the company's stock begins trading, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, June 20, 2014.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

record-high close for the Standard & Poor's 500 index and a new high for the Dow Jones industrial average.

The S&P 500 is now up 6.2 percent for the year, while the Dow is up 2.2 percent. The major stock indexes all finished ahead for the week.

On a light day for U.S. economic data, investors mostly focused on companies in the news, such as CarMax, Oracle and Darden Restaurants. They also kept an eye on the developing conflict in Iraq, which pushed oil prices near a nine-month high.

big movements will come when we start earnings season in a couple of weeks," said Drew Wilson, equity analyst with Fidelity Asset Management. "Until then, it'll be hand-to-hand combat in the indexes."

The S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq composite started off in the green during premarket trading and remained mostly higher all day. By the last hour of trading, the Dow Jones industrial average was on track for a record close. More than half of the 30 companies in the index rose, raising the possibility that the Dow

serve remains as supportive as it is, I think we have more highs to achieve before the year is out," said Krishna Memani, chief investment officer at OppenheimerFunds.

All told, the S&P 500 index rose 3.39 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,962.87. That's slightly above the prior day's record close of 1,959.48. On Wednesday, the index notched another high at 1,956.98. It has risen five out of the last six weeks.

The Dow added 25.62 points, or 0.2 percent, to 16,947.08.

The Dow's previous high

France throwing support behind GE/Alstom deal

PARIS (AP) — U.S. conglomerate General Electric Co. looked set Friday to win its months-long fight to acquire the power generation business of France's Alstom SA after the French government dropped its objections and threw its support behind the American offer.

The final decision rests with Alstom's board, which was meeting Friday night to discuss the offer. GE, which has sought a deal with Alstom since April, had given the French company until Monday to sign off on the \$17 billion offer.

Friday's announcement brings an end to months of uncertainty over whether GE would win the French government's approval despite resistance from President Francois Hollande and other top officials.

French economy minister Arnaud Montebourg said the government preferred GE's offer to a rival joint bid from Germany's Siemens and Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, and would take a 20 percent stake in Alstom.

Alstom has favored a tie-up with GE but had to postpone signing any deal while the government intervened to seek assurances on jobs and decision-making.

GE boss Jeff Immelt has been in Paris since Thursday to press his case with officials from Alstom, the government and unions.

Immelt saw off Siemens and Mitsubishi after making revisions to address the French government's concerns that the deal would not produce job losses or move decision-making authority out of France.

Whereas GE's original offer entailed a clear-cut cash buyout of Alstom's power business, the new proposal calls for the two companies to set up three 50-50 joint ventures: one for the power grid businesses, another for offshore wind and hydro-power operations, and a third for nuclear steam turbines. □

Lloyds opts to sell bigger stake in TSB unit

LONDON (AP) — State-backed Lloyds Banking Group PLC has increased the number of shares it is selling in its TSB unit amid strong investor demand.

The bank, which was bailed out during the 2008 financial crisis, is now selling more than 35 percent of the unit, rather than the 25 percent initially planned.

The opening price was put at 260 pence—an amount which valued the company at 1.3 billion (\$2.2 billion.) Lloyds also instructed the underwriters to deploy an over-allotment option to accommodate demand, so when the entire sale is completed it will constitute a 38.5 percent stake of the bank.

Lloyds says gross proceeds realized by the sale will be 455 million pounds.

Group CEO Antonio Horta-Osorio said the demand reflects confidence among investors and that it will be an effective competitor in Britain.

"TSB has a national network of branches, a strong capital base, robust liquidity

and significant economic protection against legacy issues," he said.

The group has to float TSB to meet European Union rules on state assistance. It had planned to sell the 631 branches to Co-operative Group—but the deal collapsed when Co-op found a big hole in its own balance sheet. □

Eclipse Resources and Kite Pharma price IPOs

NEW YORK (AP) — Shares of Eclipse Resources slipped Friday after the oil and gas company's initial public offering of stock raised more than \$800 million, while Kite Pharma's shares soared after the company expanded its offering. Eclipse Resources offered 30.3 million shares at \$27 each, the low end of its esti-

mates. Excluding discounts, expenses, and shares being sold by company stockholders, the company said it will get \$545.2 million in proceeds. Eclipse Resources is an oil and natural gas exploration and production company operating in the Appalachian Basin. The State College, Pennsylvania, company plans to use

the IPO money to repay all the borrowings under its revolving credit facility and fund some of its capital spending plans. Shares of Eclipse Resources Corp. fell 92 cents, or 3.4 percent, to \$26.08 in midday trading. The stock is trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol

"ECR." Kite Pharma Inc. raised \$127.5 million before expenses and discounts, as its initial public offering of 7.5 million shares priced at \$17 each. The Santa Monica, California, company had expected to sell 6 million shares for \$12 to \$14 per share. Kite Pharma is a clinical-stage biotechnology company studying

a potential immunotherapy cancer treatment. Its shares jumped \$11.40, or 67 percent, to \$28.40. The company's stock is trading on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol "KITE." The underwriters of Kite Pharma's IPO will have an option buy another 1.1 million shares. □

Olive Garden, Red Lobster sales continue to slide

CANDICE CHOI
M. CHAPMAN
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Darden said Friday that sales continued to slide at Olive Garden and Red Lobster, with other costs dragging down its profit by 35 percent in the latest quarter.

The results fell short of Wall Street expectations, and shares were down 2.5 percent in midday trading.

Darden Restaurants Inc. has been fighting to stop declining sales at Olive Garden and Red Lobster. Such sit-down chains were hit hard by the downturn, which prompted many customers to trade down to cheaper options. The menus at Olive Garden and Red Lobster also failed to keep pace with changing tastes.

Despite ongoing efforts to fix the marketing for the chains, sales at Olive Gar-



Patrons exit an Olive Garden Restaurant, a Darden restaurant brand, in Short Pump, Va. Darden's fiscal fourth-quarter profit dropped 35 percent, dragged down by charges and costs tied to its strategic plan to reshape the restaurant company.

(AP Photo/Steve Helber)

den fell 3.5 percent at established locations during

the quarter. At Red Lobster, the figure dropped 5.6 per-

cent. Under pressure to deliver better results, Darden

announced late last year that it planned to get rid of Red Lobster and focus on fixing Olive Garden. The company says that Olive Garden customers are more in line with those at its smaller, more successful chains, such as The Capital Grille and Yard House.

Darden says Red Lobster chains tend to be in lower income brackets. To revitalize Olive Garden, executives say they plan to underscore the quality and freshness of the food, which they say are increasingly important traits for customers. They're also rolling out lighter dishes, and trying to boost the chain's lunchtime business.

So far in June, the company said Olive Garden's sales at established locations are flat, an improvement from the negative results over the past fiscal year. □

RadioShack stock closes below \$1 per share

NEW YORK (AP) — RadioShack's stock closed below \$1 per share Friday for the first time in its history, reflecting investors' concern over what lies in store for the long-struggling consumer electronics chain.

Shares of RadioShack Corp. fell 11 cents, or 10 percent, to close at 92 cents. The New York Stock Exchange could delist the stock if it closes below \$1 per share for 30 consecutive trading days.

The stock is well below its all-time high of \$79.50, set in December 1999. The shares' sharp dive since then comes as RadioShack struggles to find its place

in the evolving retail and technology landscape. If shares remain below \$1 and are delisted, that doesn't automatically mean RadioShack faces immediate death. Its stock could still be traded in the over-the-counter market. But analysts say that a bankruptcy proceeding is likely for the company.

"There's no chance that this stays outside of a restructuring," said David Tawil, co-founder and portfolio manager of Maglan Capital, which follows distressed companies. He believes a formal liquidation is more likely.

He added, "I don't think

anybody will miss RadioShack if it goes out of business."

RadioShack did not immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press. Long known as a destination for batteries and obscure electronic parts, RadioShack has sought to remake itself as a specialist in wireless devices and accessories. But growth in the wireless business is slowing, as more people have smartphones and see fewer reasons to upgrade.

RadioShack's turnaround efforts have included cutting costs, renovating and closing stores, and shuffling management. The Fort

Worth, Texas-based company is attempting to update its image and remain competitive against online and discount retailers. It is working on adding new products, including private-brand and exclusive items such as those from new partnerships.

It hasn't helped stem the tide, and investors remain skittish. The stock is down 65 percent this year.

Earlier this month the chain reported that its first-quarter loss widened and revenue declined, hurt by softness in its mobile business and consumer electronics. RadioShack has limited options to stem its sales de-

clines given a tightening cash situation, according to Fitch Ratings. In a recent report,

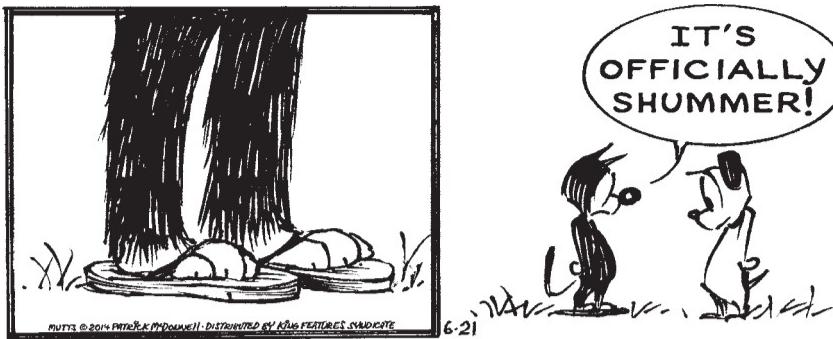
Fitch said that it expects negative free cash flow of \$200 million to \$250 million in 2014.

That, together with the \$100 million to \$150 million it plans to spend on seasonal inventory, would "substantially eat into the company's total liquidity of \$424 million as of May 13," according to Fitch.

"They're consuming a lot of cash in the core business, and that's not sustainable," said Philip Zahn, senior director at Fitch. "The clock is ticking." □

Conceptis Sudoku

Mutts



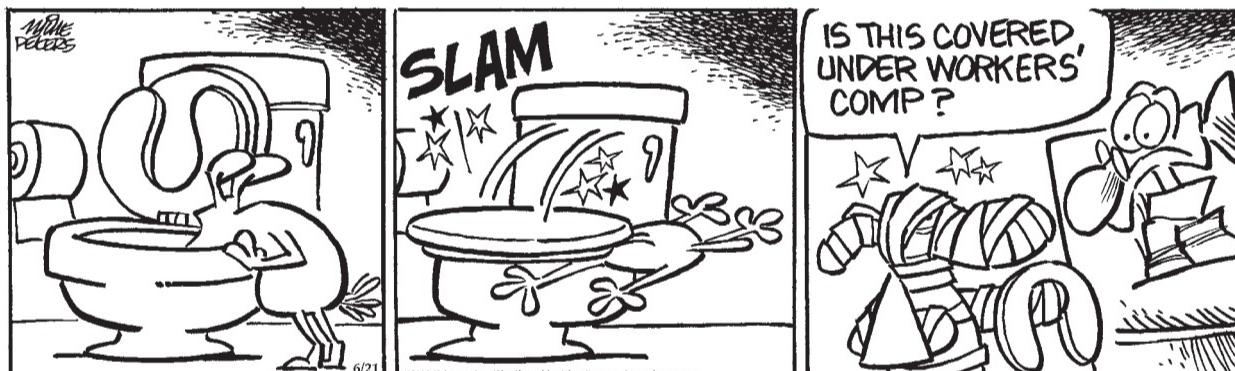
6 Chix



Blondie



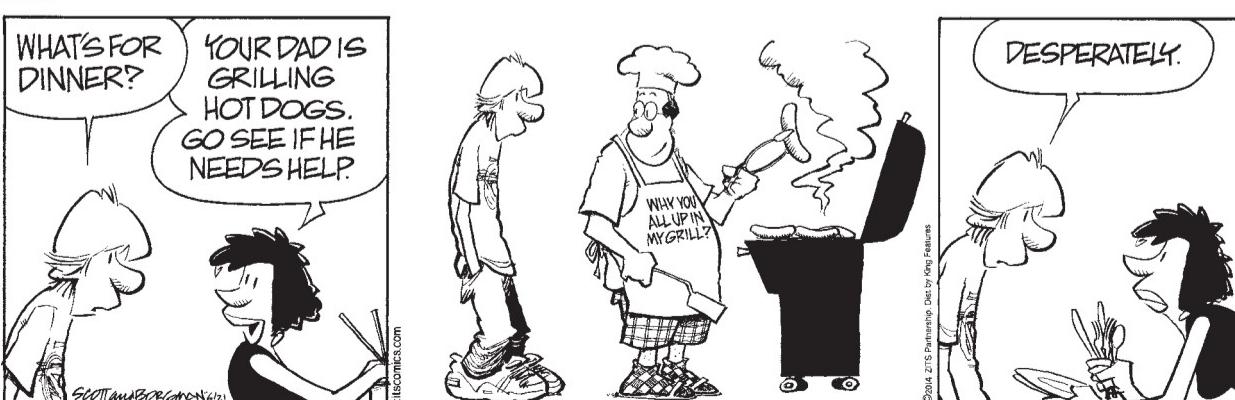
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



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| | | 5 | 6 | | | 9 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

6/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
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| 6 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| 8 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| 1 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 |

Yesterday's puzzle answer

A crossword puzzle grid with numbered entries. The grid consists of a 10x10 area with various blacked-out squares. The numbered entries are as follows:

- 1: Across (A), 2: Across (A), 3: Across (A), 4: Across (A), 5: Across (A), 6: Across (A), 7: Across (A), 8: Across (A), 9: Across (A), 10: Across (A), 11: Across (A), 12: Across (A), 13: Across (A)
- 14: Down (D), 15: Down (D), 16: Down (D)
- 17: Down (D), 18: Down (D), 19: Down (D)
- 20: Across (A), 21: Across (A), 22: Across (A), 23: Across (A)
- 24: Across (A), 25: Across (A)
- 26: Across (A), 27: Across (A), 28: Across (A), 29: Across (A), 30: Across (A), 31: Across (A), 32: Across (A), 33: Across (A)
- 34: Across (A), 35: Across (A), 36: Across (A)
- 37: Across (A), 38: Across (A), 39: Across (A), 40: Across (A)
- 41: Across (A), 42: Across (A), 43: Across (A), 44: Across (A)
- 45: Across (A), 46: Across (A), 47: Across (A)
- 48: Across (A), 49: Across (A), 50: Across (A)
- 51: Across (A), 52: Across (A), 53: Across (A), 54: Across (A), 55: Across (A), 56: Across (A), 57: Across (A)
- 58: Across (A), 59: Across (A), 60: Across (A), 61: Across (A)
- 62: Across (A), 63: Across (A), 64: Across (A)
- 65: Across (A), 66: Across (A), 67: Across (A)

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathew

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A crossword puzzle grid with 15 words filled in:

- Across: JAB, ACRE, REAL, STAUDETTE, TOES, RADIUS, IDIOT, DARN, EGGS, REENTERS, EYE.
- Down: EDGES, NAOMI, STAID, PLEA, HERB, SLY, PATERNAL, SELES, STEEP, SLIPS, SPACE, SCALED, SPAN, PRIMARILY, EIDER, ROLLS, STYLE, HULA, PAW.
- Crossed out: DUEL, ERRS, EGGO, PEON.

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| 61 Let fall | 25 Founder's Day | All rights reserved. |
| 62 Out of _____. misbehaving | marches 26 Punctures | 35 Elderly 36 Tavern order |
| 63 Just right | 27 Actor Hamlin | 38 Fragrant wood |
| 64 Frozen waffle | 28 Jordan's capital | 39 Singer Stewart |
| 65 Iditarod vehicle | 29 ____ to; because of | 53 Climbing plant 54 Rosary piece 55 Consequently |
| 66 Poor | 31 Passion | 42 ____ up; hidden 44 Roomer |
| 67 Underground plant part | 32 Harness straps 33 Upsilon native | 46 Dwell; live 47 That woman 49 Indelible mark |
| | | 50 Terribly 51 Misfortunes 52 Tack 56 Trademark 57 Espy; notice 60 Penny or Bruce |

Cuban baseball player Yasmani Tomas defects

Cuba's Yasmani Tomas hits a solo shot off Japan's starter Kenji Otonari in the third inning of their World Baseball Classic first round game in Fukuoka, Japan. Cuban authorities said Friday, June 20, 2014, that the hard-hitting outfielder has defected. (AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

HAVANA (AP) — Hard-hitting outfielder Yasmani Tomas of Havana's powerhouse ballclub Industriales has defected, Cuban authorities said Friday. News of Tomas' defection came in a single paragraph at the end of an article in Communist Party newspaper Granma, which interviewed national baseball director Higinil Velez Carrion about two games next month against a visiting U.S. collegian team.

"From the same source, Granma learned of the departure from the country, through unscrupulous, illegal human trafficking, of he who was a player for the Industriales team, Yasmani Tomas," the article read.

According to official statistics, Tomas hit .275 for Industriales last season with 10 home runs and 59 RBIs in the 90-game regular season and seven playoff games. The website BaseballdeCuba.com, which is hosted in Florida and is not affiliated with the Cuban government, says he is "without doubt the 'slugger' of the team." A number of Cuban baseball players have left their homeland over the years, tempted by fame and fortune in Major League Baseball. Recent high-profile defectors include Yasiel Puig, who signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers for \$42 million, and Jose Abreu, who landed a \$68 million deal with the Chicago White

Sox. This year Cuba began letting active players sign temporary contracts to compete overseas as long as they fulfill their domestic commitments as well, partially reversing decades of prohibition against professional sports.

With the full blessing of island authorities, stars Yulieski Gourriel and Frederich Cepeda have inked deals worth a reported \$980,000 and \$1.5 million, respectively, to play in Japan during the Cuban baseball league's summer-fall off-season.

Tomas, 23, has been playing for Industriales since 2008 and was part of Cuba's national team at the third World Baseball Classic last year. □

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Great white shark numbers are surging, study says



This undated photo provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows a great white shark encountered off the coast of Massachusetts. **Associated Press**

PATRICK WHITTLE
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —

A report that scientists are calling one of the most comprehensive studies of great white sharks finds their numbers are surging in the ocean off the Eastern U.S. and Canada after decades of decline.

The study by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientists, published this month in the journal PLOS ONE, says the population of the notoriously elusive fish has climbed since about 2000 in the western North Atlantic.

The scientists behind the study attribute the resurgence to conservation efforts, such as a federal

1997 act that prevented hunting of great whites, and greater availability of prey. The species is listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

"The species appears to be recovering," said Cami McCandless, one of the authors. "This tells us the management tools appear to be working."

Great whites owe much of their fearsome reputation to the movie "Jaws," which was released 39 years ago Friday. But confrontations are rare, with only 106 unprovoked white shark attacks — 13 of them fatal — in U.S. waters since 1916, according to data provided by the University of Florida.

They are, though, ecologically critical. They are apex predators — those at the top of the food chain — and help control the populations of other species. That would include the gray seal, whose growing colonies off Massachusetts have provided food.

"You should be concerned for a good reason," said James Sulikowski, a professor of marine science at the University of New England in Portland, who was not involved in the study but noted it could help better target future conservation efforts for great whites. "We need these sharks in our waters."

A separate study published in PLOS ONE this month suggested that great whites — also known just as white sharks — are also returning to abundance in the eastern north Pacific Ocean.

"There's this general pattern of where the white sharks are protected, they seem to recover," said Tobey H. Curtis, one of the authors of the Atlantic study.

The elusive nature of white sharks and the lack of historical data about their

population levels required the authors to rely on sightings of sharks, as opposed to other ways to count sea life, such as commercial fishing surveys and census counts, Curtis said.

The research adds recent unpublished data to previously published records to establish 649 confirmed white shark sightings from 1800 to 2010. The data show that a period of decline in white shark abundance during the 1970s and 1980s has reversed, the authors said.

White shark abundance in the western North Atlantic declined by an estimated 73 percent from the early 1960s to the 1980s, the report says. Shark abundance is now only 31 percent down from its historical high estimate in 1961, the report states. The report does not provide a local estimate for the great white shark population, which some scientists say is between 3,000 and 5,000 animals.

The report also illuminates where people encounter white sharks — mostly between Massachusetts and New Jersey during the summer and off Florida in the winter, it says.

They also migrate based on water temperature and availability of prey, and are more common along the coast than offshore, the report states. □

Stephanie Kwolek, Kevlar inventor, dies at 90

WILMINGTON, Delaware (AP) —

Colleagues say the DuPont chemist credited with inventing the body armor component Kevlar has died at age 90.

Her friend, Rita Vasta, told The Associated Press that Stephanie Kwolek died Wednesday in a Wilmington hospital. Vasta says she doesn't know the cause of death but that Kwolek had been ill for about a week.

DuPont says Kwolek made her discovery in the mid-1960s while working on specialty textile fibers. She invented a liquid crystalline solution that could be spun into exceptionally strong fibers. Kevlar is widely used in protective equipment by police and the military. Vasta says Kwolek was proud of her invention and



In this undated photo made available by DuPont, chemist Stephanie Kwolek holds a tube with crystal polymer at the DuPont labs.

Associated Press

worked to get more women into science.

A Catholic funeral Mass is planned June 28. □

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AP EXCLUSIVE: Campbell's wife defends his care

CHRIS TALBOTT

AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tennessee

(AP) — Glen Campbell's Alzheimer's disease has progressed to the point where he needs full-time professional care, his wife said Thursday, explaining her decision to place the singer in a long-term care facility and responding publicly for the first time to criticism from Campbell's eldest daughter.

In an email to The Associated Press, Kim Campbell wrote that doctors persuaded her earlier this spring to discontinue care at the family's home, drawing criticism from Campbell's daughter Debby.

"It is crushingly sad to see him afflicted with Alzheimer's but indulging those feelings does not help him," Campbell wrote, adding, "I am his wife and no one wants him home more than me but I must do what is in his best interest." Debby Campbell told Country Weekly magazine last week that she objected to the move and that she and Campbell's eldest children heard about it through news media reports. She also said she did not believe family members in Nashville, where the Country Music Hall of Fame member now lives, were spending enough time with him.

Campbell, 78, was diag-

nosed with Alzheimer's in 2011. He issued two albums and went on a world tour following the diagnosis. At the time, Kim Campbell said the tour was a way to help her husband combat the brain-ravaging disease and spend time with his family members, including Debby, who made up his

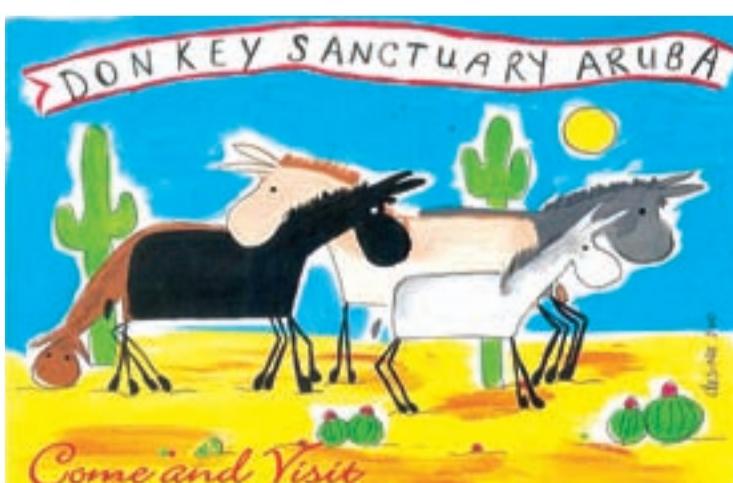
In this July 27, 2011 file photo, musician Glen Campbell, left, and his wife, Kim, pose for a portrait in Malibu, Calif.

Associated Press

band and traveled with him.

Glen Campbell has eight children, including three with Kim Campbell, his wife of 32 years. She says she spends time with her husband every day and that two of his children who live in Nashville visit weekly. Beyond that, she says she organizes activities for the Grammy Award-winning singer of such hits as "Rhinestone Cowboy" and "Wichita Lineman."

"He has longtime friends here in Nashville who come to play music for him and give him hugs," Kim Campbell said. "He has activities and therapies to stimulate him and help him experience daily moments of success. His life is filled with love and laughter and he is being cared for round the clock by people who specialize in Alzheimer's care and happen to adore him." □



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Jennifer Lopez says music has been 'challenging'

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jennifer Lopez remembers the days when her record label budgeted \$1 million for one of her music videos. Today, she's attempting to create the same magic with one-tenth of the money.

The entrepreneur says being a singer has been "challenging" since she debuted on the pop scene in the late 1990s, dominating the charts with back-to-back hits while becoming a driving force on other entertainment platforms.

"It used to be like this big magical world, almost like Oz, when you'd make a record," the 44-year-old says. "(It) was like anything was possible."

Lopez, who released her eighth album, "A.K.A.," on Tuesday, says the music industry no longer feels like Oz.

"Now, it's like, 'We'll see if we can do that and we can give you this much,'" she says of record label meetings. "And you're like, 'Wow, OK. So how am I gonna do that?' It's a



Jennifer Lopez performs on ABC's "Good Morning America" in Central Park on Friday, June 20, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

whole different mind-set." She enjoys the challenge, Lopez says. When coming up with creative concepts, she has thought to herself: "What great idea can I come up with that costs nothing?"

Her last platinum effort was 2002's "This Is Me ... Then." Its follow-up, 2005's "Rebirth," sold 745,000 units. Since then, she's had

some successful singles, but she's no longer one of pop's "it" girls, racking up multiple hits, earning Grammy nominations and winning other accolades. The performer hopes fans can hear the work she's done in the past four years on "A.K.A.," an album filled with pop, R&B and dance sounds.

"I want woman to feel em-

powered. I want women to know what they deserve and to not take anything else, and to look at love in that way," she says.

Lopez says that's why she recruited white-hot rapper Iggy Azalea for the record: "I was thinking of working with a female rapper because, again, of the strength and subject matter of the album, I want-

ed some girl to be talking smack with me."

Billboard reported that "A.K.A." — Lopez's first album for Capitol Music Group — would sell about 30,000 units next week, her lowest sales for a debut week.

"The numbers today as compared to the numbers 10 years ago to me, it's a very different conversation because it's more diversified how people consume music," says Greg Thompson, executive vice president of Capitol. "We try to make sure that not only do we have a good first week, but that we can continue to sell records because I think that Jennifer's fan base will come out week two, three and four, too. It's about constantly driving that album in people's consciousness."

Thompson says he believes the current single, the Max Martin-produced "First Love," is "going to go all the way." He says they plan to work the pop song throughout the summer. High-profile guests on the album include Pitbull, Nas, Rick Ross and T.I.; some of the songs were co-written by Chris Brown. However, other tracks featuring Robin Thicke, Wiz Khalifa and Maxwell didn't make the project.

"Economics come into play; all types of stuff come into play," Lopez says.

Lopez says she's lucky that she and other musicians have been able to use "our creative talents in other ways," like her judging job on "American Idol." Lopez says she's been asked to return to "Idol" next season and plans to do so if her schedule allows. And Lopez, who is also producing TV shows and may dabble in directing and Broadway, isn't concerned about the decline in the show's ratings.

"I really feel like we got back on track and got the focus on what it needed to be, which was on the contestants and on the show and off of anything else," she says. "I think things have their heat and then they cool down and then they have their heat." □

'Rizzoli & Isles' copes with actor's death



In this Wednesday, June 18, 2014 photo, actress Sasha Alexander poses for a portrait in Los Angeles. Season five of Alexander's crime drama "Rizzoli and Isles" premiered Tuesday, June 17, 2014, on TNT.

Associated Press

NICOLE EVATT

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Rizzoli & Isles" is saying goodbye to Lee Thompson Young, who played police Detective Barry Frost on the TNT crime drama. The 29-year-old actor was found dead in his North Hollywood home last August of an apparent suicide. In

the first episode of the new season, which aired this week, his colleagues learn that Frost has died in a car accident.

Frost's memorial service will be featured on next week's episode (9 p.m. EDT Tuesday). Although the episode was difficult to shoot, said Sasha Alexander, who plays medical examiner

Dr. Maura Isles, she hopes it will help fans grieve and begin to heal.

"I hope that people who knew him and adored him and loved him on the show will enjoy it and be able to move through it with us," the 41-year-old actress said.

"Rizzoli & Isles" also stars Angie Harmon as police detective Jane Rizzoli. Jan Nash signed on as the new show runner just months after Young's death, and had the difficult task of deciding how to proceed with the new season.

"I really do think it was very brave of TNT and Warner Bros. and Jan Nash to embark on handling it head-on," Alexander said. "They might have been like, 'I can't deal with this. I don't know how to handle this,' but they didn't. They went for it and everyone just embraced it and I think that was really just to show our love for him." Alexander said Young's absence is felt on the set.

"They have not replaced him and don't intend to do so anytime soon," she said. "So his seat remains empty and it's something that we have had to look at and struggle with from day one of shooting." □

Mitt! Again! What?



GAIL COLLINS
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Mitt Romney is back. Don't leap to any conclusions. After all, there are a lot of different ways to be back. You can be back as in "back running for president." Or just back as in "back in the public eye." Or back driving to Canada with a dog strapped to the car roof.

Until recently, Romney just seemed to be looking for a public persona, maybe something between Jimmy Carter (Nobel Peace Prize, eliminating Guinea worm disease) and former Republican presidential hopeful Fred Thompson (starring in TV ads for reversible mortgages). Romney was host of an "ideas summit" in Utah last week that drew several eager presidential wannabes and a raft of Republican establishment financial figures. Also the former governor of Montana, Brian Schweitzer, the token Democratic speaker. "It was an ideas conference. I am a person of a lot of ideas," Schweitzer said in a phone interview. The potential Republican candidates ranged from Rand Paul, who seemed to be regarded as interesting but scary, to Mike Huckabee, who we really have to stop encouraging by mentioning his name. But not Jeb Bush, who had a scheduling conflict. Did that mean Jeb Bush is not going to run in 2016? Moderate Republicans are really desperate to have Bush, even though he would very possibly be the most boring presidential nominee since ... I don't know.

There have been a lot of very dull presidential nominees, but they were not the third member of their family to run at the top of the ticket. Instantly - instantly - people began speculating that Mitt might be The One. Romney himself made the news talk show rounds, happily denying that he was interested.

"I brought a number of the 2016 contenders here to meet with my fundraisers," Romney said of his summit. "Had I been running, I wouldn't be doing (that)." Excellent point. Much of the warmth currently being beamed in Romney's direction has to do with the fact that this is a guy who raised \$1 billion for his presidential race and is still friends with the people who helped him do it. Rom-

ney, some people speculated, might just want to become the party's "kingmaker." You can't deny that kingmaker sounds like an attractive career goal. And Republicans have traditionally been nicer to their loser presidential candidates than Democrats. Everyone has forgotten that John McCain even ran. They've most definitely forgiven George H.W. Bush for losing his second term. Just the other day, I received a fundraising letter from H.W. on behalf of the Republican National Committee that began: "Friend, I don't know what your guilty pleasures are in life, but one of mine is socks." This has nothing to do with Mitt Romney, but I really did want to mention it.

Could powerful moderates in the Republican Party be desperate enough to want to bring back Mitt? The guy who raised \$1 billion for his presidential race and still managed to lose the election? He doesn't seem to have changed. Still, the little tufts of gray hair by his ears. The way he reacts to difficult questions by looking as if he just whiffed an unpleasant smell. The good old heh-heh-heh. These are trying times for Republicans. Actually, things are pretty bad for both parties: The Democrats could lose the Senate, and Hillary Clinton's book sales are iffy. But, at the moment, the Republicans' traumas are a lot more action-packed. The defeat of the House majority leader, Eric Cantor, terrified many of the party establishment's supporters, particularly since Cantor's opponent ran against Wall Street, big business and bank bailouts.

It's a problem, if you're a big-money donor, to be worried that your party is being taken over by crazy people who will alienate the voters in a national election by opposing immigration reform and contraception. It's a catastrophe to be worried that it's being taken over by economic populists. Mitt Romney is never going to run as a man of the people. You will remember how well that worked the last time around. Instead, he's talking foreign policy. It's the topic of the moment. And unlike, say, Chris Christie, Romney has the aura of a serious guy. Unlike, say, Jeb Bush, he is not related to anybody who invaded Iraq.

To win against Hillary Clinton, Romney said on "Meet the Press," "the playbook, I believe, is to look at her record. I think you have to consider what's happened around the world during the years that she was secretary of state. And you have to say it's been a monumental bust." The Obama administration, he said, should have armed Syrian rebels and made the president of Iraq ask U.S. troops to stay in his country. We will try to move past the deep, deep, deep irony of Republicans trying to score political points on Iraq. Really try. It's just Mitt Romney. And he's not even running for anything. □



On Iraq, Echoes of 2003



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

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Is this 2014 or 2003? I'm flinching at a painful sense of déjà vu as we hear calls for military intervention in Iraq, as President Barack Obama himself - taunted by critics who contend he's weak - is said to be considering drone strikes there.

Our 2003 invasion of Iraq should be a warning that military force sometimes transforms a genuine problem into something worse. The war claimed 4,500 American lives and, according to a mortality study published in a peer-reviewed American journal, 500,000 Iraqi lives. Linda Bilmes, a Harvard expert in public finance, tells me that her latest estimate is that the total cost to the United States of the Iraq War will be \$4 trillion.

That's a \$35,000 tax on the average U.S. household. The total would be enough to ensure that all children could attend preschool in the United States, that most people with AIDS worldwide could receive treatment, and that every child worldwide could attend school - for the next 83 years. Instead, we financed a futile war that was like a Möbius strip, bringing us right back to an echo of where we started.

We might have learned some humility. Yes, the military toolbox is handy and often useful. But

one of the most basic lessons of international relations is a frustrating one: There are more problems than solutions. Governments, like doctors, should weigh the principle, "First, do no harm."

Yet Paul Bremer, the former U.S. envoy in Iraq, argues for airstrikes and even a few boots on the ground. The Wall Street Journal's editorial page, likewise, favors military intervention. Perhaps more surprisingly, so does Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., the chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. "I think most important is that we take direct action now against ISIS," she said, according to the Washington newspaper The Hill, in reference to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, the Sunni militant group that has swept into northern Iraq.

The least surprising hawk is Dick Cheney, who in a Wall Street Journal op-ed article with his daughter Liz preserves an almost perfect record of being wrong. From the vice president who himself obtained every possible deferment to avoid Vietnam, who asserted "with absolute certainty" in 2002 that Saddam was making nuclear weapons, and insisted in 2005 that the Iraqi insurgency was in its "last throes," we now have a blast at President Barack Obama for failing to extinguish the continuing throes.

Iraq has formally requested U.S. military intervention, and my fear is that we will be inadvertently sucked into a civil war - an echo of what happened to the United States in Lebanon from 1982 to '84 or Somalia from 1992 to '94. Look, failing to intervene is a bad option in this case. But intervening is a worse one.

Let's acknowledge that hawks are right, that Iraq presents a serious problem. But is U.S. military intervention really the best response at this time? Not at all. Remember that the militants' invasion was accomplished by a tiny force of perhaps 4,000 fighters, and that Iraq has an army 50 times as large. It's possible for the Shiite-led Iraqi government

of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to defeat the militants, but the essential first step is for al-Maliki (or a replacement) to reach out and work with Sunnis and Kurds instead of marginalizing them.

In The New York Times, Alissa J. Rubin and Rod Nordland reported this week that Sunni Arab and Kurdish leaders met with al-Maliki, with the Sunnis proposing in effect a Sunni army to vanquish the militants. That would have been a perfect way to nurture unity and deploy moderate Sunnis to crush the militant Sunnis, defusing sectarian tensions. Instead, al-Maliki rejected the idea.

Many Sunnis in Iraq dislike the militants, but they have learned to loathe and distrust al-Maliki even more. The way out of the mess in Iraq is for the government to share power with Sunnis and Kurds, accept decentralization and empower moderate Sunni tribes.

If all that happens, it may be reasonable for the United States to back a united Iraqi government by authorizing airstrikes against militant fighters. Without that, we simply become an accomplice to al-Maliki's intransigence, assisting one party in a civil war. As Gen. David Petraeus told a London conference, "This cannot be the United States being the air force for Shia militias."

Unfortunately, it looks as if al-Maliki is doubling down, revving up his Shiite base rather than building a common front. The Iraqi government should be releasing Sunni prisoners as a goodwill gesture. Instead, prisoners have been executed by police.

Military force can be a powerful, indispensable tool, as we saw in Kosovo and with the no-fly-zone over Kurdistan. But the \$4 trillion lesson from the Iraq War is that while our military capabilities are dazzling and sometimes intoxicating, they cannot be the solution to every problem.

Contact Kristof at Facebook.com/Kristof, Twitter.com/Nick-Kristof or by mail at The New York Times, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018. □

Third Rail Troupe Takes Over Governors Island House

HELENE STAPINSKI

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NEW YORK - From a distance, the yellow clapboard house on Governors Island looks normal, with its pretty pink flowers, white gingerbread porch railing and wide side yard. But move a little closer, and you start to wonder.

A "family" of six is dancing in sync on the picnic table in the yard.

Inside, a man and a woman are lying in fetal positions on the built-in bookshelves; and upstairs, another couple are practicing some moves inside a large closet.

This is what happens when Third Rail comes to visit.

Third Rail Projects, a New York dance and performance company, has a residency this summer on the island in one of the former officers' residences - House No. 17 - and is inviting the public to watch its performers rehearse and develop their latest creation.

"Most people see bookshelves, and they think books," said Joshua Reaver, one of the performers. "We think, 'Good place to lie down.'"

The company is best known for its "Alice in Wonderland"-inspired "Then She Fell," a theater experience that unfolds in an old parochial school in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, six nights a week.

The artistic directors - Tom Pearson, Zack Morris and Jennine Willett - set up house on the island early this month and will be on site with their 10 dancers and singers, all of whom also perform in "Then She Fell," until late September, giving the public a window into their creative process. Two separate performances are underway. The yard piece, known as "Roadside Attraction," toured last summer throughout the city and the state. Its story revolves around a dysfunctional family on vacation in a 1978 Coleman pop-up camper, which the cast hauls out of the Building 17 garage every Friday, sets up, then dances in and around. The unhappy

Mother character has an avatar, performed by Elizabeth Carena, who occasionally breaks into 1970s pop standards, helping attract an audience for the

The peeling paint on the ceilings seemed to be spreading from one room to the next, "almost like an infection, creeping in and coming into the closets,"

creature unto itself, its two chimneys the horns of a Minotaur or some other misunderstood monster. "We're using the architecture and pulling the history

(summer) the outside performance will meet the inside performance in an overall project called "End of the World." The vacationing family will stumble



Third Rail Projects performers incorporate a camper and picnic table as they work on "Roadside Attraction" on a lawn by an officer's residence, House No. 17, on Governor's Island in New York, June 6, 2014. The dance and performance company has a residency this summer on the island and is inviting the public to watch its creative process.

(Joshua Bright/The New York Times)

45-minute show.

During a recent Friday rehearsal, a real family of four from Taiwan visiting Governors Island stopped to see what was happening. "We heard the singing, so we came and sat down," said Brian Fan, who was touring New York with his mother, his wife and his daughter. They sat comfortably in the retro lawn chairs that Third Rail provided, chairs that Willett's father had collected in Ohio and driven to New York.

The traveling piece is based on her camper vacations as a child. The second performance, the one going on inside the 135-year-old house, is a bit more abstract and in its larval stages. Four dancers were traveling through the usable seven rooms, past peeling eggshell paint and sparse furnishings, feeling the "flow" of the house. (Because of collapsing ceilings, some rooms - including the kitchen and an upstairs bedroom - are off-limits, with hand-drawn skull and crossbones signs taped to the doors.)

Willett said.

Morris added, "Maybe we can build that into the mythology of the house, that the sky is always falling." Strewn about the house were a wing chair, three life-size faux-Greek statues, a desk and an office chair, some toy guns, lanterns, Christmas lights, lampshades, dollhouse furniture, a neon Chinese food takeout sign and a chair with a skeletal spine where the backing should have been.

All useful props. There is no running water, but there is electricity.

The creators were listening as the house spoke to them, to help tell them what the piece would become, they said. "We're developing characters and material, trying to meet the space on its own terms," Pearson said. "There's something so self-contained and yet mysterious about all these houses." A Southern Gothic vibe was emerging, he said. He was rereading Faulkner's "Light in August" for inspiration. Morris, however, saw the house as a

from the house," he said. Upstairs, inside two closets with sliding doors, Reaver and a fellow dancer, Edward Rice, were engaged in an abstract striptease. A door would slide open and a shirt would appear on a hanger; the performers were off to the side, hidden. After a few beats, the door would close and then open again to reveal another piece of clothing, and so on, until, presumably, the dancers were naked, unseen by the audience.

At other times, they were writhing, fully clothed, along the grand hallway banister or swinging from upstairs landings and wedging themselves into the narrow servants' staircase at the back of the house.

Though an original score is being developed by Sean Hagerty, who composed the music for "Then She Fell" and "Roadside Attraction," the group was dancing, temporarily, to recordings of Billie Holiday and Nina Simone.

Eventually (though not this

upon the action of "House No. 17" along with the actual audience. "It's meant to be a synonymous experience, where the audience and the family are all visitors and are all in this together," Pearson said.

While the dancers rehearsed, island visitors stopped their bikes, and sanitation crews pulled up their golf carts, craning their necks to see what was going on. A volunteer for Third Rail was stationed outside to explain (to a degree), discuss the schedule and hand out postcards. Audience reaction has always helped inform the pieces that Third Rail produces. "Those little intersections with the audience help shape what we do," Willett said. "We learn what works and what doesn't." Governors Island, she said, was a perfect place for Third Rail. "This is one of the few places in New York City where artists can have the time and space to collaborate with a site and be in a conversation with the public," she said. "It's a perfect match, really." □